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Tuesday, October 15
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The Guardian
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Wednesday October 16 1996

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
48,685

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Anarchy in the London eco-village

The dream that turned to ashes

G2 with European weather



Murdered girl's father pleads for help to find killer

Who killed Caroline Dickenson?

G2 page 4



Society

The shame of growing old

G2 page 10/11

Public anger forces late Cabinet decision to introduce near total ban

Handguns outlawed



Major supports tough action by defiant Forsyth

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government will today bow to public anger over the private ownership of guns in the wake of the Dunblane massacre by announcing a ban on almost all handguns.

In an extraordinary move decided at a two-hour Downing Street meeting yesterday, the Government will say the vast majority of handguns must be handed in. The exception will be 22 single-shot pistols, which account for less than 10 per cent of handguns in Britain and which will have to be kept in gun clubs.

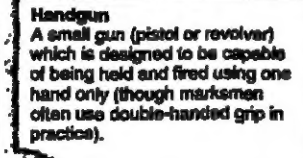
The ban will create outrage among shooting organisations which have lobbied hard for the rights of their members to be protected. But it will not satisfy Snowdrop, the anti-gun pressure group set up after Dunblane, which will argue that 22s can also kill.

The ban, to be announced in the Commons this afternoon, was decided at a meeting in Downing Street yesterday, chaired by John Major, to discuss the Government's response to Lord Cullen's public inquiry into the massacre. It goes much further than Lord Cullen was prepared to recommend.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, whose Strirling constituency includes Dunblane, was known to be pressing for the handgun ban.

Gun factfile

- 0.22 inch calibre
Diameter of the ammunition used.
- Olympic Games and many other international target shooting disciplines are restricted to 0.22 inch calibre guns.
- Number of people holding firearm certificates for handguns in Britain: 87,810
- Number of legally owned handguns: 286,400, of which 100,000 are 0.22 inch calibre.
- Number of offences in Britain in which firearms used (1994): 14,725



Handgun: A small gun (pistol or revolver) which is designed to be capable of being held and fired using one hand only (though marksmen often use double-handed grip in practice).

while Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has favoured a less stringent approach. Mr Forsyth had let it be known that he was prepared to resign from the Cabinet if tough action was not taken.

In the event, Mr Forsyth had the support of Mr Major, who is believed to have been disappointed that Lord Cullen himself did not propose a wider ban.

The ban will make Britain one of the most gun-free countries in the world, with the vast majority of handguns banned from being held either at home or in gun clubs. Owners will be paid compensation on handing weapons in to the authorities.

The 22 single-shot pistols exempted from the ban are the kind used for Olympic shooting, thought to number around 20,000 of the handguns held in Britain.

Lord Cullen's report, which will be published today, recommends only that hand-



Austin

guns be banned from homes but the Government, recognising the extent of public feeling against guns since the massacre, has opted to go much further.

The Government will find itself outflanked by Labour, which wants to include 22s in the ban. The Labour leader, Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, and the shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson, met yesterday afternoon to discuss the par-

ty's response to Lord Cullen's report, which will not be made available to them until today.

Labour will claim the Government is panicking because it does not want to be seen to be out of step with public opinion. But Government sources insisted the deciding factor was the simple argument that a disturbed individual should not have been able to keep powerful handguns in a council house in Dunblane.

The Scottish Secretary will make the first of two Commons statements, setting out the Government's general response to Lord Cullen, such as tightening school security. He will be followed by Mr Howard, who will announce the changes to the gun laws, which are to be included in the Queen's Speech.

It is a huge setback to the gun lobby, which has been exerting maximum pressure on politicians for six months in attempt to avoid draconian action by the Government.

It will also create trouble with sections of the Tory party, which is traditionally the party of the shooting lobby. Many pistol clubs will almost certainly have to close down.

A Commons motion calling for a complete ban on handguns was being circulated yesterday and gained cross-party support. The Conservative MP, Hugh Dykes, said they tabled the motion to make sure their feelings were known before ministers made a final decision.

"It is really to focus the debate very strongly on this growing perception amongst the public that nothing less than the complete prohibition on the private ownership and use of handguns will do," he told BBC Radio 4's World at One.

"This is obviously a free vote and will be a matter for the whole of Parliament and I would guess that there is a very large majority in the House of Commons for an outright prohibition, and that has to be borne in mind by anybody considering these matters now."

"This is an unrivalled opportunity for us in Britain to get away from the menace of the American gun culture which is beginning to take a grip in this country as well."

Trauma of Dunblane survivor's father, page 5

Tory minister called to account over Hamilton

Speaker orders emergency debate on Willetts affair

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

THE House of Commons is expected today to order David Willetts, the Paymaster General, to appear before Parliament's most senior body to answer allegations that he tried to stifle the initial inquiry held two years ago into Neil Hamilton and the cash-for-questions scandal exposed by the Guardian.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, yesterday granted an emergency debate this afternoon to decide whether to refer Mr Willetts to the Com-

mons standards and privileges committee. The vote looked like being a formality after talks between government and opposition whips.

The Speaker's decision puts one of John Major's highest flying junior ministers in the spotlight for his actions as a junior whip two years ago.

The decision came hours before the committee last night voted to give Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, the resources to investigate the cash-for-questions affair.

A statement from Tony Newton, the cabinet minister who chairs the committee, said: "The commissioner is satisfied that his powers are sufficient to enable him to prepare the reports for which the committee has asked. If necessary, the committee will at his request exercise its powers to enable him to call for persons and papers and to facilitate the taking of evidence under oath."

The committee deferred discussing on how they examine Mr Willetts's involvement on the affair until next week.

Mr Willetts's involvement only came to light after the collapse of the libel case brought against the Guardian by ex-minister Neil Hamilton and lobbyist Ian Greer.

A handwritten memo revealed that Mr Willetts had used his role as a government

whip to try to persuade Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the Tory grandee who then chaired the Commons members interests committee, not to inquire into allegations that Mr Hamilton had received cash and shopping vouchers from Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, to table parliamentary questions.

The committee was then examining a complaint from Alex Carlisle, Liberal MP for Montgomery, that Mr Hamilton had failed to declare his 24,000 stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mr Al Fayed, and allegations of 22,000 in cash and voucher payments.

Mr Willetts is said to have floated with Sir Geoffrey, the committee chairman, the possibility of "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee to ensure the issue was dealt with as quickly as possible.

Alternatively it was suggested the committee should decide to defer any investigation citing Mr Hamilton's pending libel action against the Guardian.

Although Mr Willetts has claimed the note was taken out of context, Opposition MPs believe it could be the "smoking gun" which implicates the Government in the affair.

In a brief statement to the House yesterday, the Speaker said Andrew Miller, Labour MP for Ellesmere Port, had written to her "about information which came to light during the parliamentary recess alleging that improper

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Documents may be withheld, page 2; Leader comment, page 8

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Sketch

Unfriendly way to swap statistics



Simon Hoggart

THE Prime Minister rose for his first Question Time since July to the time-hallowed, ritual cry of "Resign!"

the novelist John Braine, who by then was very right wing indeed. He had been praising the United States at a dinner.

Clarke's tough stance pays dividends as surge by sterling scotches calls for higher interest rates

Pound hits two-year high

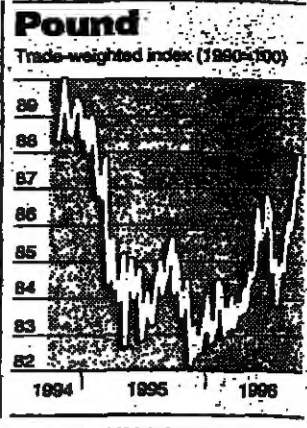
TOUGH talking by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, ahead of next month's Budget was reaping early dividends yesterday as a soaring pound put pressure for a rise in interest rates.

sterling surged to a near two-year high on the foreign exchanges, helped by City expectations that Mr Clarke will stay true to pledges that there will only be tax cuts in the last Budget before the elec-

tion "if they can be afforded." In little more than two months, the pound has climbed almost 7 per cent in value against the German mark to more than DM2.43.

figures are released today and some analysts expect the recent rise in high street sales to be reflected in an improvement in tax revenues.

and Italian governments for monetary union has given sterling a "safe haven" status for some investors.



Big brothers: The Land Rover range on display at the Motor Show in Birmingham. Below: The Peugeot Asphalte sports car.

Review

Chilling out with Roman drones

John Hooper... ALIGHT drizzle was falling on Michelangelo's Palazzo del Campidoglio in Rome. As she made her way out of the square towards the Forum, a tourist stopped, frowned and cocked her head quizzically, trying to identify the odd sounds issuing from the 12th century Palazzo Senatorio.

from Ancient Rome. But it is one of contemporary man's peculiarities that he refuses to accept there is something he cannot know if he just tries hard enough.

Land Rover aims to throw off green welly image with birth of new baby

Chris Barrie... IT HAS long been regarded as the farmers' workhorse and plaything of the green welly brigade. Now, though, Land Rover is targeting women, increasingly important players in the vehicle market, in a £300 million bid to revamp its crusty image.

Land Rover suppliers are based. However, there will be no new jobs at Land Rover, which has taken on 2,000 people in the last two years.

Key documents may be withheld from Downey

Richard Norton-Taylor on the uncertainty which surrounds watchdog's inquiry... KEY documents relating to the cash-for-questions affair may be withheld from Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner for standards, it emerged last night.



Sir Gordon Downey: 'rules dictate private affair'

papers. Some were disclosed to the newspaper's lawyers. However, Mr Hamilton withdrew from the libel action before the judge had the opportunity to inspect further government documents handed to him by Charles Gray QC, counsel for ministers the Guardian had subpoenaed.

could do what they liked with it". He has acknowledged that his office has no "set procedures", and freely admits that he faces a "much bigger inquiry" than anything he has been asked to do before.

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS ARE GOING OUT SOON.

THE THIRD AT 50 CONTINUES THE CELEBRATIONS WITH THE SECOND INVITATION CONCERT, CHOSEN BY NICHOLAS KENYON. BACH, BRAHMS, MACHAUT AND OCKEGHEM LIVE FROM ST GILES' CRIPPLEGATE, TOMORROW AT 7:30PM.

Advertisement for Southern Spring, featuring a can of beer and text: 'FBI rushes pole as mu and maybe follow out of cabin fe in Antarctic' and 'Pure Gen people out on the pisshead'.

Southern spring reveals dark secrets



The US McMurdo base: Scene of a frenzied kitchen attack

FBI rushes to the pole as mutiny and mayhem follow outbreak of cabin fever in Antarctica

'Winter stress' claims new victims. Christopher Zinn and Ed Vulliamy report

TIME, darkness and the infinite expanse of ice and snow have played cruelly on the nerves of scientists and ancillary staff camped in the Antarctic winter...

British explorers call it 'cabin fever' - the Australians prefer 'winter stress'. It's called going up the pole to the rest of us.

Three FBI agents have made their way to the American base at McMurdo Sound - unreachable during winter - to investigate a brutal assault...

The FBI agents will, according to Stan Wisneski, area manager for Antarctic Support Associates, the company that staffs and supplies the base...

The suspect is being 'watched around the clock', he added.

It is the first time the FBI has been called to enforce United States law in the Antarctic.

Meanwhile, the Australian Antarctic Division has taken the unusual step of sending a mediator to its base at Casey - also snowbound until last week - to deal with an 'interpersonal dispute'.

This is officious for a mutiny against a team leader, Mark Goodhall in response to a complaint he made about a staff member to Sydney headquarters.

Things came to a head among the staff of 16 when a meteorological observer left the base to meet his wife on her way back from another expedition...

The peacemaker, Robert Easther, who has just arrived at the base by supply ship, said the six months of isolation had caused an irrevocable breakdown in relationships.

'Had we not been able to get a ship to them, had we not been able to send anyone down, who knows what might have happened here,' he said.

Antarctic 'cabin fever' is not new. In the 1950s, a de-ranked researcher at Australia's Mawson base had to be locked in a storage room for a whole winter out of fear for the safety of the rest of the staff.

The doctor at Argentina's Almirante Brown station could not stand the isolation as winter closed in in 1983. He forced his evacuation, and that of his colleagues, by burning down the station.

In the 1980s, a Soviet Antarctic scientist got fed up with a colleague over a chess game and killed him with an axe.

Reacting to the current situation, David Walton, of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that 'the British tend to try and deal with these things pragmatically, rather than call in psychiatrists or the FBI'.



Argentina's Almirante Brown station: Scene of an arson attack in the winter of 1983

PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN GUICHARD

the loneliest place in the world in the winter. 'These communities cannot be reached, they are completely isolated and become interdependent'.

One British camp has isolated huts where scientists can get away from their colleagues when nerve-ends become frayed, according to an Antarctic researcher.

Dr Walton, aged 50, has been working in the Antarctic for 30 years and has come to notice what Americans call the 'Big Eye'.

'People working long winter periods can develop a glazed expression, staring into the distance,' he said.

Singer tears a strip off Catholic grp for snubbing charity concert

Dan Gleister Arts Correspondent

FOUR years ago Sinead O'Connor ripped up a picture of the Pope on Saturday Night Live, the holy of holies of US television.

Last month, it was reported that she had enrolled in a strict Catholic college to study theology.

Whether or not the two events are connected, forgiveness has not been forthcoming from an Irish Catholic development agency.

Trocaire, formally known as the Catholic Agency for World Development, announced yesterday that it was withdrawing its backing from a charity concert in which the singer is due to appear.

The concert, to be held in Dublin on November 10, is to mark the first anniversary of the execution of a Nigerian writer and civil rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa.

'This is nothing personal against Sinead O'Connor. But we are dependent on the support of Catholic people and when she ripped



Sinead O'Connor rips up the Pope's picture on US television

up a picture of the Pope, we were deluged with protests,' said a spokesman for Trocaire.

'It's not an issue about Sinead O'Connor, it's about freedom of speech. My action in tearing up the picture was to create controversy about things that needed to be discussed, which was what Ken Saro-Wiwa was about - the

right to criticise and oppose authority.'

The organisation first asked for the singer to be dropped, but other artists appearing at the event countered that they would not perform unless she was involved.

Ms O'Connor, who has been voted most popular female singer in Ireland for the past five years, said that Trocaire was passing

up a perfect fundraising opportunity.

'Do the children in Africa give a shit where the money comes from? From a business and financial point of view, it's a pretty stupid move,' she said.

Peter McDonald, spokesman for the Body Shop, one of the other concert organisers, regretted Trocaire's decision, but said that the show would go ahead without it.

'We are absolutely delighted to have Sinead there. She is a tremendous Irish artist,' he said.

'There will be no tearing up of pictures. This will be a broadcast event.'

Ms O'Connor, who was abused as a child, defended her actions on Saturday Night Live at the time, saying: 'I was not sanctioning any hatred towards the Pope as a man, I was referring to the office of the Pope as an entity.'

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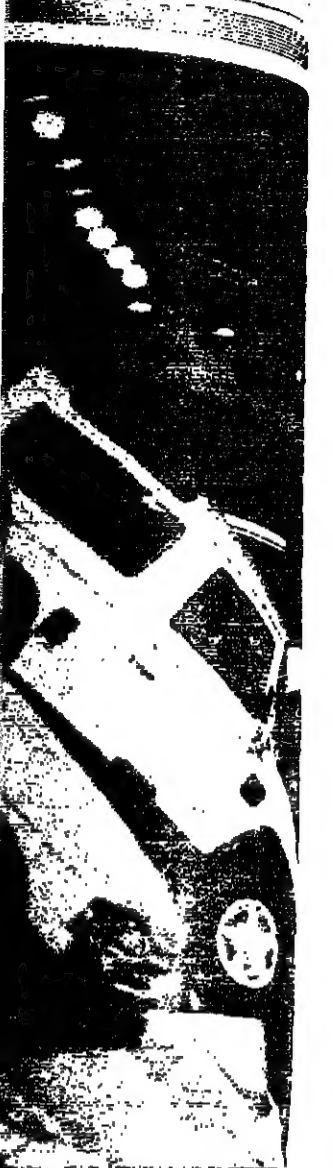
Form for donating to WOMANKIND, including fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and a section for a credit card donation.

G2 cover story

'Pure Genius became one of the last places people could go to when they were chucked out on the street. It's amazing how few pisseheads it takes to wreck somewhere.'

Wednesday October 16 1996 higher interest rate high

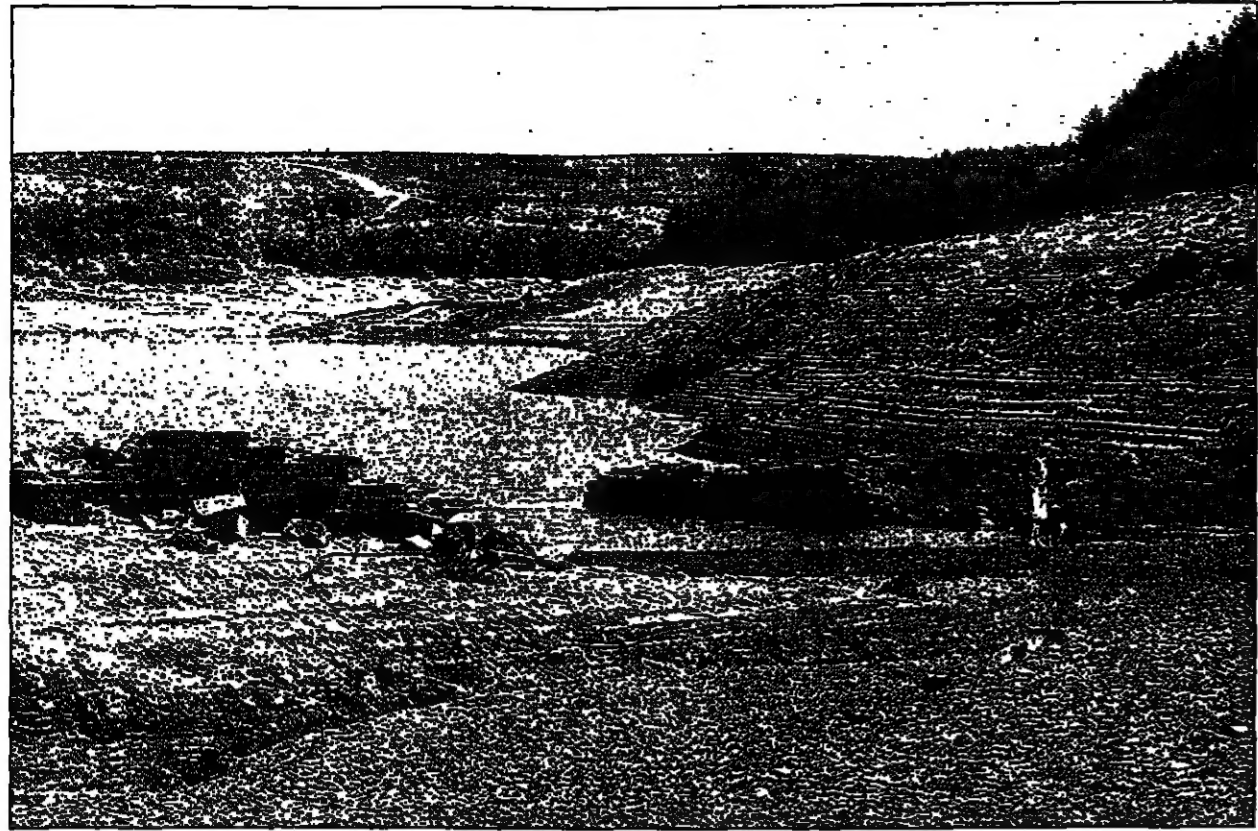
Pound



m Down

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Tough action demanded, write Paul Brown and Martin Wainwright



At the height of the 1995 drought, water levels in Thruscross reservoir, left, fell so low the drowned village of West End was uncovered. Right, the replenished reservoir two weeks before a drought order is lifted

Water firms told to charge big users more

Homes with pools and sprinklers 'should pay steep penalty rates'

A TWO-TIER system of charging for water, penalising people with swimming pools, sprinklers and appliances that use a lot of water, is demanded today by the Department of the Environment.

Yorkshire's 16-month drought ends with talk of a flush future

THE longest and most arid in Britain for half a century was declared over yesterday, as Yorkshire Water announced the imminent lifting of its hosepipe ban and the end of a raft of controversial riverwater extraction orders.

'5,000 Shearers' lie unclaimed in bank vaults

THE bank vaults of Britain hold more than £77 billion in unclaimed deposits, a financial research company claimed yesterday — enough to build seven more Channel tunnels or field 488 football teams composed entirely of Alan Shearers.

Parents 'in hell' as killer escapes

THE parents of one of the victims of a child murderer who has been on the run for three weeks last night said they were going through a second hell.

Parents 'in hell' as killer escapes

29 years in other jails. He is serving two life sentences imposed for the 1967 murders. Mr Williams, of Lynton, Hampshire, said: "I thought you could only go through hell once. But now we are going through it again."

Networking at local as good as JobCentre

IT IS the message the unemployed cribbage players at the corner table in the Dog and Duck were waiting for, writes Larry Elliott.

Regulars raise their glasses to hunt for work

AFTER the lunchtime rush, the serious business begins. Industrious afternoon drinkers in the Mitre in north London were hard at it, reading the paper and scrutinising their platts, writes Clare Longridge.

Visiting the pub 'boosts job hopes'

Pub regulars can learn about more vacancies by networking in their local than men who rely on formal methods such as JobCentres, according to the Independent think tank, the Policy Studies Institute.

'Honesty of police' at issue in pocket calculator theft case

Mr Goss said PC Whitworth had been videoed taking the calculator on February 11, 1994, and had said nothing when his shift was paraded four days later and all members asked if they knew where the instrument had gone.

Girl and lodger found

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl and her family's lodger, who disappeared during a coastal walk in Devon, were found by police yesterday.

Financial adviser faces retrial

A FINANCIAL adviser accused of stealing £1.2 million from the Salvation Army is to face a retrial. A new hearing was ordered yesterday after the jury trying Stuart Ford, aged 45, cleared him of two of 23 counts of theft, but failed to reach verdicts on the remainder.

Race attacks rise

THE police recorded 12,222 attacks and other incidents as racially motivated in 1995/96, a rise of 3 per cent over the previous 12 months, the Home Office announced yesterday.

Navy angered as army man gets top job

DEFENCE'S former SAS officer, General Sir Charles Guthrie, has been appointed to Britain's top military job after bitter behind-the-scenes arguments with the navy, which wanted its own man to be chosen.

Girl and lodger found

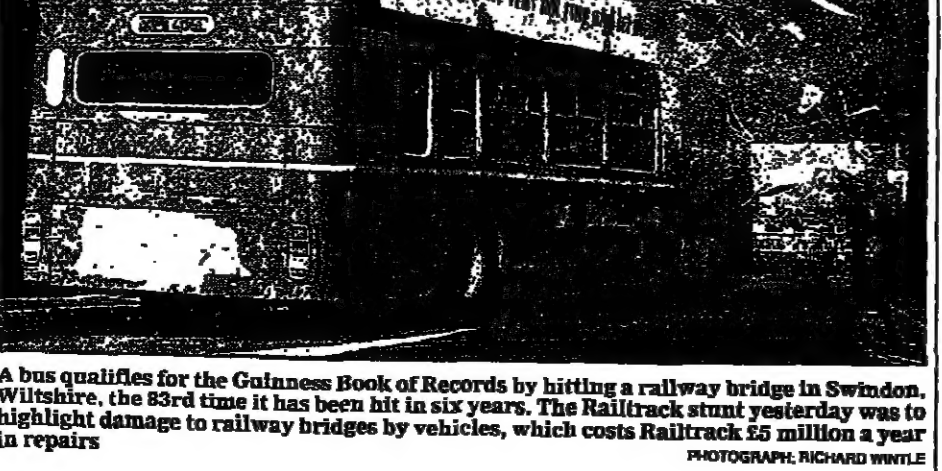
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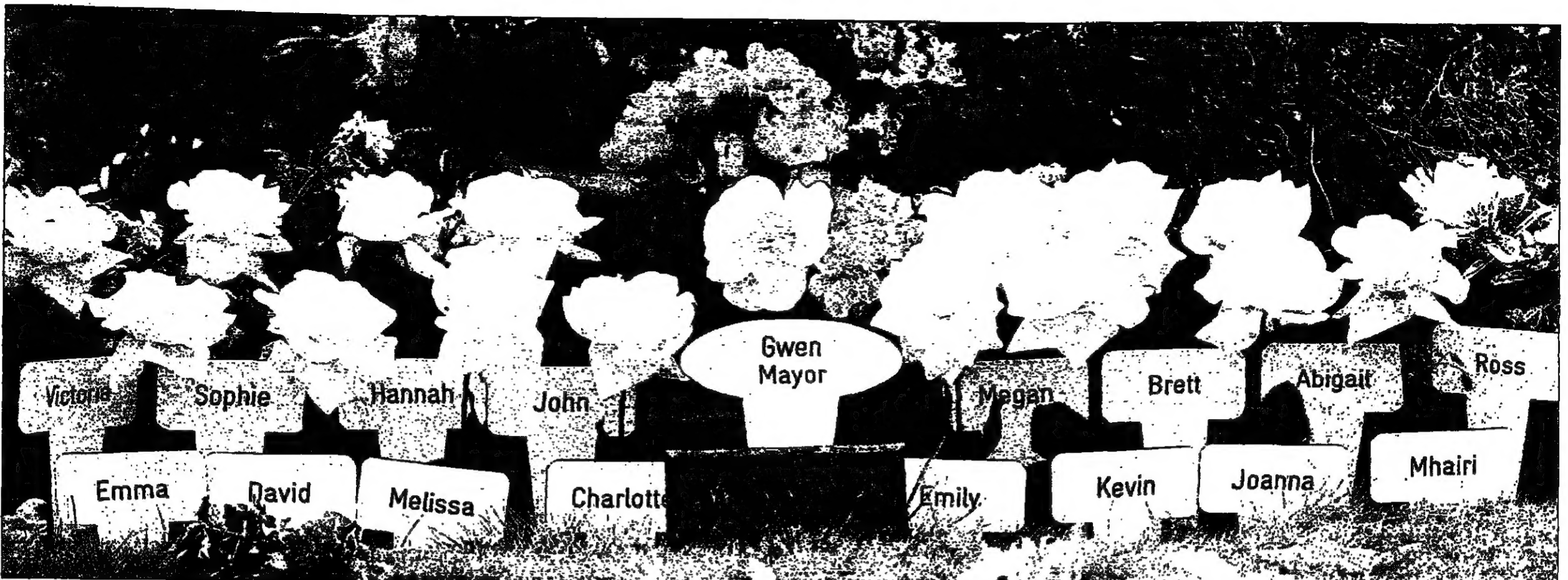
A bus qualifies for the Guinness Book of Records by hitting a railway bridge in Swindon, Wiltshire, the 83rd time it has been hit in six years. The Railtrack stunt yesterday was to highlight damage to railway bridges by vehicles, which costs Railtrack £5 million a year in repairs

Advertisement for Traul House Insurance, featuring a large image of a house and text: 'HOUSE INSURANCE 50% OFF', 'LONDON & HOME COUNTIES', 'Premium Only £154.00', '0345 123111', 'Traul House H'.

السنة الأولى

Erlend Clouston meets parent of a six-year-old who was shot and lived: 'You have the stress of possible long-term problems'

Trauma of Dunblane survivor's father



The grave at Dunblane cemetery of Gwen Mayor, the teacher killed when Thomas Hamilton opened fire in the primary school gym on March 13, displays the names of the 16 children who died with her

PHOTOGRAPH MURDO MACLEOD

MARK Mullan, now aged six, was shot but lived when Thomas Hamilton walked into the Dunblane gym on March 13. "We're getting over the physical injuries," says his father, Jim. "We're hoping for the best long-term. Short-term, there isn't any depression or anything like that." Sixteen children and a teacher were shot that day

and died; 14, including Mark, were injured. Mr Mullan said: "You have the problem of the stress of your child being shot and maybe having long-term psychological problems, but then you have the trauma of having 17 people killed. So you can't say 'I'm happy, our child has survived'." Mark won't talk, or hardly ever, about what happened. He has had one session with a psychologist at Stirling Royal

Infirmity and more are planned — one a month, maybe, for the next two years. Mr Mullan, a civil engineer, aged 54, emphasises that the boy is not mentally ill but just needs to be sort of emotionally flushed out. "He's trying to forget, which is fine, but isn't fine, if you understand. He needs treatment, but not in a dramatic way. Just to talk to him and discuss it with him gradually. Just one pace at a time.

Just slowly coming to terms with it." Mr Mullan also has reservations about trawling too deeply through his memory. He does not want the publicity, he explains. After a pause, he says Mark was seriously injured. "He tried to avoid the bullets. Which actually helped him. The fact he started to run out of the way, instead of standing there, helped to minimise the impact." Mr Mullan had been in his

Stirling office when his wife rang him. She had noticed police closing off the road to the school. Twenty minutes later he was in Dunblane and then, after some hours, back in Stirling by Mark's hospital bedside. "His life was in the balance for four days. He was conscious throughout. Just calmly sitting there waiting his turn." The bullet holes have healed, and Mark plays like

any ordinary six-year-old. "He was slightly more aggressive for a few months, but not now. On the face of it you wouldn't think there's anything wrong with him." Perhaps because of his tranche of good fortune, Mr Mullan is philosophical about what Lord Cullen's report might recommend today. "I would like some gun banning," he says, "because I think it will happen again, or something similar, as you

can't trust people with such dangerous weapons. "It's up to Lord Cullen. If he left the guns that are used for the Olympic Games, with a single shot, that would be acceptable to me." Nonetheless, Mr Mullan has found the build-up to today an exhaustion to pile on other exhaustions. "I don't perform as well as I used to, with all this stress going on." One worry is the Mullan luck might not stretch so far again. "So when he goes in a car, if you're not driving, you think 'God, is he going to be all right?' " Though not a churchgoer, he accepts the idea of the deity. "It's hard to believe there isn't a God, its difficult to say there isn't one, even though... " his voice trails off. How does he square that with March 13? "I'll give you Mark's answer. "He basically said: 'Well, there were just too many of us for God to save.' "

Cullen inquiry into gun control and other issues: questions and answers

Q. What was the Cullen inquiry intended to do?
A. It was set up after the murders of 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school on March 13. Lord Cullen, a Scottish judge, examined the issues of gun control, school security and vetting of adults working with children.

Q. How thorough was it?
A. In physical terms, extremely thorough. In 26 days it heard 171 witnesses and accumulated two tonnes of transcripts and legal submissions. However, it failed to turn up incontrovertible evidence that Hamilton was a practising paedophile.

Q. Will anyone be blamed?
A. As well as demanding a much more rigorous approach from the Home and Scottish Offices to gun legislation, Lord Cullen is expected to have harsh words about Central Scotland police's firearms licensing procedures. The most exposed individual is Douglas McMurdo, formerly Central Scotland's deputy chief constable, now assistant chief inspector of constabulary in Scotland. He decided a junior officer's memo in 1991 demanding revocation of Hamilton's gun licence ("He is an unscrupulous character and an unstable personality") did not justify any action. Hamilton's licence was renewed in 1992 and March 1995.

Q. What did Central Scotland police do wrong?
A. The inquiry heard that, contrary to force standing orders, Hamilton's firearms file contained no criminal intelligence reports relating to the 1988 and 1991 investigations of his summer camps.

Q. What was Mr McMurdo's excuse?
A. That the controversial memo, submitted by the head of his force's child protection unit, gave a misleading account of Hamilton's assault on a camp member. More criti-



Lord Cullen: dealt with two tonnes of documents

cally, he argued that a policeman's "gut feeling" would not have been seen as sufficient evidence at the judicial review Hamilton was entitled to. Despite being reported four times to procurator fiscal by Strathclyde and Central Scotland police, Hamilton was never charged with any offence, let alone convicted.

Q. Surely after the 1987 Hungerford massacre, in which 16 people were shot by legally held weapons, the Government has intensified its monitoring of firearms licence holders?
A. No. In 1994 the life of a licence was extended from three to five years. The probationary period a new member has to serve at gun clubs has been cut from six to three months. From January 1 the Home Office dropped the rule that new members be endorsed by an outside referee.

Q. How do you qualify for a firearms licence?
A. Chief constables grant them if satisfied that appli-

cants have a good reason for owning a gun (ie target shooting), that they are not of "intemperate habits or unsound mind", and that weapons and ammunition can be stored securely at home.

If, as in Hamilton's case, there is no formal evidence of unsuitability, chief constables are advised to exercise a discretion which can be challenged by judicial review.

Q. How easy is it to acquire a licence?

A. In 1995, out of 40,860 new applications for firearms and shotgun licences, only 800 were turned down; out of 264,580 renewal applications, 250 were rejected.

Q. Presumably the police have a shared view on the best way of avoiding further gun massacres?
A. No. The three Scottish staff associations want any permitted firearms to be secured in gun clubs. The Association of Chief Police Officers (English, Welsh and Northern Irish) would prefer them to be stored in licence-holders' homes.

Q. If Hamilton was thrown out of the scouts as a suspected paedophile in 1974 why was he still running boys clubs 20 years later?
A. The scouts did not tell Central region, which subsequently was ordered by the ombudsman to reinstate Hamilton's lets. Similar bureaucratic "walls" prevented Central from learning that suspicious Fife and Lothian councils had blocked Hamilton's activities. Lord Cullen is expected to recommend a universally accessible data base for vetted youth workers.

Q. How much might it cost to protect schools from intruders?
A. About £10,000 will buy perimeter fencing, closed-circuit TV, panic buttons in every classroom and a single controlled entry point. Dunblane primary now has 31 telephone lines, three mobiles, a fax machine and CCTV link to police HQ at Stirling; cost unknown.

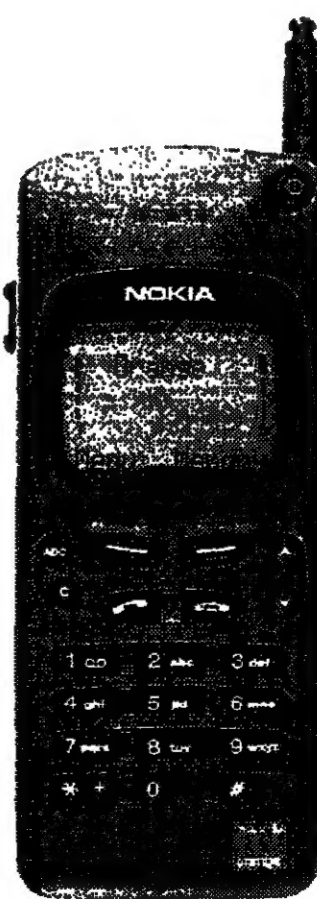
Q. Did anyone speak on behalf of Hamilton?
A. His adoptive father said: "He never raised his hand to me at any time." In its evidence, the Scottish Target Shooting Federation speculated that Hamilton might have been driven to his action because he was "ostracised, shunned and vilified by various parts of the community".

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Blood tests raise fears for Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow

FRESH doubts emerged yesterday about Boris Yeltsin's fitness to undergo heart surgery next month after it was claimed that the Russian president's blood was not healthy enough to sustain an operation.

Doctors have found very low levels of haemoglobin in Mr Yeltsin's blood, according to reports leaked to a radio station.

The news broke just as Colonel Valery Stetski, a former Kremlin investigator, accused the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the former presidential chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, of building multi-million-pound chachas for themselves.

Col Stetski poured scorn on the emergency commission set up to increase tax revenues under Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Chubais.

He was quoted as saying: "Do you think that [Mr Chubais] does not know that Chernomyrdin has built for him and his sons such huge chachas that you would have to gather together half of the country's beggars in order to earn such money?"

Col Stetski is openly working with General Alexander Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's disgraced former bodyguard, for the political advancement of the national security chief, General Alexander Lebed.

A senior Russian defence ministry official quoted by the Interfax news agency, said yesterday that significant "quantitative and qualitative" changes were needed to the Start-2 strategic arms reduction treaty before Russia could ratify it.

of staff, Anatoli Chubais, serving ministers and leading businessmen of tapping millions of pounds of state money to enrich themselves and fund the president's campaign.

In an interview with Moevskoy Komsomlets, the colonel — who was sacked in September as head of the department investigating top-level corruption in the president's security service — also accused the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the former presidential chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, of building multi-million-pound chachas for themselves.

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Clouds of vapour replace columns of ash as the volcanic eruption under Iceland's Vatnajökull glacier appears to die down. Massive flooding caused by melting ice is still expected and emergency services remain on full alert. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL PROBST

Bad news for Juppé as French journalists strike

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH kiosks are beset by many newspapers today after journalists went on strike against a plan to axe generous tax privileges which they have claimed for more than 60 years.

Despite a last-minute government pledge to safeguard journalists' spending power, public service television and radio stations ran minimal news bulletins yesterday. Several hundred journalists demonstrated outside the national assembly.

The one-day strike was called by six unions in protest against a government proposal to abolish a tax exemption, dating back to 1934, which allows journalists to deduct 30 per cent of their salary, up to a limit of 550,000 (€5,500), from their taxable income.

The radio station France-Info played its news jingle every seven minutes as usual, followed by a single

item: "Due to industrial action over government tax changes, we cannot bring you a news bulletin."

The national news agency, Agence France-Press, closed down for 24 hours but promised a skeleton service. One story ran at 4.23am yesterday when a night editor put out a 23-word bulletin on the birth of Madonna's daughter.

Journalists on the biggest newspapers voted to stop work, preventing titles such as L'Equipe, Le Figaro, Aujourd'hui and France-Soir from appearing today. But the leftwing press was more hesitant.

Both Liberation and Le Monde are on news stands after journalists there voted against strike action on the basis that the tax break was iniquitous in the present climate of unemployment and economic gloom.

Late on Monday, the prime minister, Alain Juppé, attempted to appease journalists' unions whose strike call coincided

with the start of the parliamentary debate on next year's budget. The draft budget scraps tax breaks for more than 100 professions, including fashion models, pilots and nurses.

Mr Juppé said he would not go back on plans to phase out the breaks, because they were part of a reform which would cut income tax for most people. But he said the finance minister, Jean Arthuis, would ensure that the measure did not put any group at a disadvantage.

Journalists' unions claim the scheme is crucial to the survival of the French press, which unlike Britain's is subject to VAT. They say scrapping the measure would allow managers to pay reduced employers' contributions — will lead to job losses.

The French press receives a €2 billion state subsidy, but most national dailies find themselves in almost constant financial trouble.

Dinosaur footprints go on outback walkabout

Christopher Zimm in Sydney

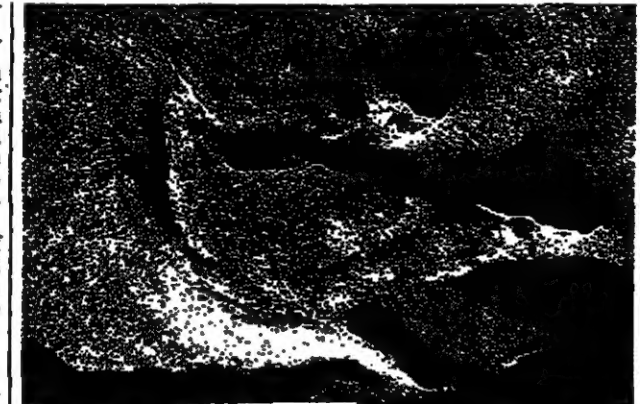
IT HAS already been called the Jurassic heist and, if it were not such a scientific and cultural tragedy, would have all the ingredients of a great whodunnit — including an Aboriginal curse.

It is the organised theft of 130-million-year-old fossilised dinosaur footprints from an Aboriginal sacred site in the remote outback of Western Australia.

Thieves used power tools to hack out the only known footprints of a stegosaurus from solid rock at a site 30 miles north of Broome on the Kimberley coast.

The senior curator of fossils at the University of Western Australia, Ken McNamara, said yesterday that the loss to science was incalculable. "I don't know what the footprints would get on the open market... they were unique," he said.

The prints were the only direct evidence that the stegosaurus, a herbivore with a



The only known footprints of a stegosaurus, shown to scale, before thieves removed them with power tools

double-row backbone and spiny tail, once roamed Australia. They also proved the existence of the super-continent Gondwana which included Africa, Australia and other land masses.

The loss to the local Goolarabooloo and Jabirjabir people, for whom the prints are part of a song cycle and a registered sacred site, is

also enormous. Aborigines believe the footprints belong to a mythical creature from their "Dream Time".

The anthropologist Patrick Sullivan, one of a party of Aborigines who discovered the theft, said the footprints formed one of a "song line" of sacred sites used in aboriginal ceremonies.

"The footprints have great

spiritual significance for our people," said the site custodian Joseph Roe. "We urge whoever has taken the fossils to return them immediately. According to Aboriginal tradition, whoever has taken them has placed themselves in great danger. They might get sick or I might get sick."

Mr Roe warned that the offence was punishable by death under Aboriginal law. "If he comes to face me I will put a spear through him and finish him," he said in Broome, a tourist town 1,800 miles north-west of Sydney.

The state government has already moved to increase security on sites and penalties for damage. But the sheer size of Western Australia, more than 10 times that of Britain, makes protection difficult.

The executive director of the Kimberley Land Council, Peter Yu, called the crime a national disgrace. "This is disgusting and raises the broader issue of the extent to which [Aboriginal] people can feel secure about heritage protection," he said.

News in brief

Army plan sparks Chernobyl fears

SCIENTISTS yesterday protested against plans to allow the military to engage in training exercises destroying abandoned Belarusian villages contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in neighbouring Ukraine in 1986.

The newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted radiologists as saying fires and explosions from the exercises would raise radiation levels to 1,000 times above normal and spread radioactive dust up to 25 miles away.

Dr Victor Homich, a biologist and MP heading the parliamentary commission on Chernobyl, said the exercises would be dangerous. "Because we have no clear border with Ukraine in this area, conducting these exercises may cause an international scandal and a conflict with Ukraine," he said.

"The exercises could also cause the migration of animals that have been highly contaminated." — AP, Minsk.

Kingmaker weighs options

THE leader of the nationalist New Zealand First party, Winston Peters, is still considering his options since his party was left holding the balance of power after Saturday's elections.

Mr Peters had attacked the National Party and its prime minister, Jim Bolger, and it was assumed he would line up with Helen Clark's Labour Party and the leftwing Alliance to force a change of government. But he will talk to both leaders, and speculation is rife that he will back the National Party. It seems likely to co-operate, and its policies on student debt, inflation and anti-union laws could now be negotiable.

Meanwhile, residents of Millerton on the South Island's west coast were revealed as the only voters to deliver a clear victory for the Legalise Cannabis Party, which won 14 of the 31 votes cast at the small town's polling station. — Giles Wilson, Wellington.

Croatia gets EU warning on human rights

John Palmer in Brussels

THE European Union has told Croatia it cannot expect privileged economic and trading links unless there are improvements in its record on democracy and human rights.

A senior Croatian government delegation sent to Brussels this week to plead for closer relations has been told that Zagreb must first fully co-operate with the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, cease interfering with the independent media and recognise the rights of its political opposition.

However, Croatia's diplomatic campaign to improve its relations with western Europe may be given further momentum today, if the 39-member Council of Europe admits it as a member.

Moves to accept Croatia were postponed in April in protest against the government's dissolution of Zagreb's elected city council, its "repressive action against the media" and its lack of co-operation with the war crimes tribunal.

When Croatia's prime minister, Zlatko Matusevich, visited the European Commission this week, he was told: "Croatia has further to go on the road to democracy and respect of human rights."

In spite of repeated protests by the war crimes tribunal's president about Croatia's lack of co-operation, there have been reports of alleged war criminals moving freely around Zagreb.

Although opposition parties won a clear majority in elections for Zagreb's city council, President Franjo Tudman refuses to recognise the city administration's authority.

Organisations monitoring human rights and press freedom are also worried about efforts to muzzle the media.

Charities attack Britain over UN food summit

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

JOHN MAJOR has come under criticism for not planning to attend next month's United Nations World Food Summit in Rome.

More than 100 heads of state or government are to attend the summit, its secretary-general, Kay Killingsworth, said in London yesterday. But it is unlikely that any will be from the Group of Seven industrialised countries — the world's richest. Britain is being represented by Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Aid Minister.

Charities working in the development field argue that Britain's approach sends out the wrong message — that hunger and poverty are restricted to the developing world whereas only an integrated global strategy that links North and South can solve problems.

"Lack of food requires global efforts," said Laura Kelly of Actionaid, one of the five leading development non-governmental organisations. "Even if John Major himself were to attend it would require more than political will to feed the hungry."

The Rome summit, organised by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, has already been criticised for failing to discuss mechanisms to help feed the world's 800 million chronically undernourished.

World food production has increased to match population growth since 1945, but grain shortages suggest a future crisis unless fish stocks are conserved, fertile land protected and agricultural techniques improved.

This spread on a big table, see page 11

Haider gamble over Europe wins the day

The vote-winning anti-EU stance of Austria's far-right Freedom Party is a shrewd tactic used by its leader

DER STANDARD

S CARE tactics about Europe are a political gambit that Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider has used twice, writes Katharina Krausova-Pfeifer.

His first attempt failed utterly. The second has been a success for him and for his unusual list of candidates in Sunday's European Parliament elections (including a Jewish journalist and author, Peter Sichrovsky). Haider and Europe perfectly exemplify the politics of contradiction that the head of the Freedom Party has espoused throughout his career.

In the seventies and eighties, the Freedom Party led vehement calls for Austria to

join the European Union. Haider was always a noisy advocate of this policy. The shift came only when it became a serious option. Jörg Haider tried to turn the referendum on entry into the European Union on June 12 1994 into a vote on domestic politics. At his party's anti-EU rally, he urged people present to send "a warning to the government".

In fact the plan backfired. More than 66 per cent of the Austrian people voted against his anti-EU line. Two years later, the European turnout has triumphed. Haider successfully exploited widespread disappointment over unfulfilled promises on Europe, and called again for a warning vote.

He accused the government of dealing "in a cavalier manner with the confidence it was awarded on June 12". He linked the government's package of spending cuts with the cost of EU membership. His success in the elections to the European Parliament puts post-war Austria's most changeable politician comfortably back in the saddle for the foreseeable future.

ian Katz in New York

Madonna's link to madam's father

ian Katz in New York

MADONNA, who has devoted most of her adult life to shocking the rest of us, managed to spring one more surprise as she gave birth to her first child on Monday afternoon.

The singer and actress, who has been re-christened the Maternal Girl by almost every newspaper in America, chose Dr Paul Fleiss, a paediatrician best known as the father of the Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss, to care for her baby.

In the morally gymnastic, incestuous world of Hollywood, it seemed oddly appropriate that the child of America's modern madonna should be looked after by the father of its most famous madam.

Madonna provided a lesser surprise by giving birth at the relatively unsalubrious Good Samaritan Hospital in downtown Los Angeles rather than the smarter Cedars Sinai Hospital across town.

Admitted to the hospital under the name of Victoria Fernandez, the singer gave birth to a 6lb 5oz girl at 4.01 pm.

There were reports that the singer underwent a Caesarean, but the hospital did not

release any information. Ending months of speculation, Madonna's spokeswoman said the child would be christened Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon. That's Lourdes, rather than the single syllable pronunciation of the French town where the Virgin Mary was supposedly sighted in 1858.

The child's father, so far little more than a bit player in the Lourdes Ciccone Leon nativity story, is Carlos Leon, a former night club messenger who was hired as Madonna's personal trainer after she met him while jogging in Central Park.

"Mother Madonna Ciccone, father Carlos Leon and their daughter are all resting comfortably," said Mr Rosenberg. "We would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes."

Dozens of reporters and cameramen camped outside the Good Samaritan hospital throughout the night, but failed to catch a glimpse of mother or child.

News of the birth was eventually broken to reporters by Dr Fleiss, who this year pleaded guilty to charges of tax evasion in his own efforts to conceal the earnings from his daughter's prostitution operation.

"I shall continue to fight" he says. However, he regards death threats as inappropriate. "That is not my style."

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Death threat to mayor in town that's on top of the world

Städtsche Zeitung Christopher Oellers

THE announcement that the Norwegian hamlet of Honningsvåg, population 2,800, is to be awarded town status has resulted in a death threat to its mayor.

Next week the government is to repeal an archaic law regarding the allocation of Town Charters which means any cluster of houses will be entitled to call itself a town. On October 30 the rural council of Honningsvåg will, after a six-year fight, proclaim itself a town council. But the

death threat, which arrived on a postcard addressed to Hans-Arvid Hansen, the burgomaster, is an attempt to stop the mayor and township claiming a title after this change that means tourists, jobs and money in this economically hard-pressed region. That title is "most northerly town in the world".

For 200 years the title has gone to Hammerfest, 50 miles further south, and it is not giving up without a fight. In the Hammerfest Town Hall, the burgomaster, Torodd Bartholdsen, holds forth in front of a large oil-painting of his town after a winter storm: "We have spent

100 million kroner (€10 million) telling the world that we are the most northerly town."

And with success. Nearly all the tourists — around 200,000 — who travel to the North Cape also detour 100 miles to visit Hammerfest, although its attractions are few and hardly conventional. For only 90 kroner, tourists can visit a dried-fish processing factory and then spend 10 minutes in a cold-store admiring a mountain of ice.

Should they have the appetite, they can sample some while listening to the factory owner extolling the merits of his splendid exports to Italy, Croatia and Black Africa.

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MPs' Last Chance Saloon

What was it the Speaker said about transparency?

AND SO, creakingly, the post-Nolan mechanisms for investigating parliamentary sleaze stutter into action. On Monday afternoon the Speaker announced that she wanted the investigations to be speedy, thorough and "as transparent as possible."

Next time parliament lectures anyone else (notably, the press) on the evils of self-regulation we can all have a good chuckle. This is MPs' own Last Chance Saloon, and their attempts to prove to the outside world that they are willing and able to put their own House in order have not so far been handled with overwhelming competence or openness.

So we are back with Sir Gordon Downey. Such is the transparency of his committee it is difficult to know quite what to make of the process on which he is about to embark. We cannot be sure of his terms of reference: they have not been published. We are led to suppose that he will look at the "very

serious allegations" to which the Speaker referred in her statement, but since Betty Boothroyd did not elaborate on what those allegations were we are not much wiser. There is nothing in Sir Gordon's original brief that says he must carry out his investigations in private, but that is apparently what he intends to do. It is suggested that he might not hear any evidence himself, but will merely prepare a report based upon the written evidence. Again, we do not know for sure.

And what will that written evidence consist of? Neil Hamilton, Ian Greer and the Treasury Solicitor will only promise to provide Sir Gordon with the papers they consider "relevant". Why so bashful? Why not hand over all the documents that would have been examined during a libel trial? How is Sir Gordon to know he has all the evidence he should have? Will he be able to get his hands on the 200 official papers the Government's QC told the trial judge were "relevant" to the case, but which the government did not wish to disclose? And will Neil Hamilton produce his tax returns, which he never produced for the Court? Will Sir Gordon be able to pinpoint the documentary smoking gun which appears to have caused Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer to part company three days before the libel case was due to start?

Will Sir Gordon confine himself to Hamilton, or will he also look at the other members of the Conservative Trade and Industry Committee? Will he call for the papers on Gerry Malone MP and Lady Olga Maitland? Will he subpoena all Greer's accounts for the last 10 years?

Last night's decision by the Committee to give Sir Gordon all the help he has asked for is a promising sign. But until we get answers to some of these questions we are still stumbling in the dark.

Keeping the talks on the road

Ulster still needs an IRA ceasefire for genuine progress

WHEN is a breakthrough not a breakthrough? Answer: when it's an agreement between the Ulster Unionists and the nationalist SDLP. Of course Monday's late night deal between the two main Northern Ireland parties over the talks agenda is a welcome step in the right direction. It keeps the slow-moving process on the road. It probably secures the loyalist ceasefire at least until the next provocation. It shows that the main constitutional voices of unionist and nationalist Northern Ireland can not only live together but also work together.

The terms of the agreement are good too. The two parties have agreed that the talks — procedurally deadlocked ever since they started in June — should now get under way with a full plenary session (minus Sinn Fein) and that weapons decommissioning should be downgraded to become a secondary and eventually parallel item in the talks. This is the only realistic means of making progress and it is a vindication of the position adopted throughout by Senator George Mitchell. It also shows realistic flexibility, particularly on the part of the UUP leader David Trimble.

Ian Paisley's posturing yesterday suggest that the UUP and the SDLP must have got it right. Mr Paisley does not want political agreement in Northern Ireland and his denunciation of the deal is a disgraceful piece of sectarianism. Just as depressing, in a similarly unhelpful way, was the announcement yesterday by the Derry Apprentice

Boys that they intend to march on the city walls overlooking the nationalist Bogside area this weekend. The Northern Ireland secretary must be as forthright in his response to this threat as he was when he banned the Apprentice Boys from marching the same route in August. Nevertheless, no one should delude themselves into thinking that Mr Paisley and the Apprentice Boys do not still speak for many loyalists in Northern Ireland.

The basic problem with the UUP-SDLP deal is simply that it is a deal in a situation transformed fundamentally for the worse by the bombings of the IRA this year. No one can know for certain whether Mr Trimble would have been prepared to agree to parallel decommissioning if the IRA ceasefire had still held: there are two schools of thought about that. But the Lisburn bombing seems to have given the UUP leader some space to move. The compromise he has made this week, although an important one, inevitably has less far-reaching effects now than it would have had a year ago or than it would have today were the IRA interested in an acceptable ceasefire. Mr Trimble says the agreement is a way of further isolating the IRA. But the IRA have done that job more than adequately themselves by their determination to go on killing people. Now, as before, an IRA ceasefire is the sine qua non of real progress. It would also be the greatest test of Mr Trimble's statesmanship. But we are still a long way off.

Race of the grounded aircraft

The UK land speed record is threatened: why don't we care?

IN 1898 the Frenchman Gaston Chasseloup-Laubat established the first official world land speed record of 39.2 miles per hour. For people travelling along roads at the pace of a horse (about 15 mph) this speed must have seemed awesome. For many years the contest was a plaything of the rich with winners like de Palma, Vanderbilt and even Henry Ford (driving a Ford). As cars became custom-built and even faster it went through a period of derring-do dominated by Brits like (Sir) Malcolm Campbell, John Cobb and Sir Malcolm's son, Donald. The record was British from 1929 until 1963.

Why then have the latest bids to break the record failed to spark the enthusiasm of earlier years? In theory the ingredients for success have never been higher. Chauvinism — never far from this contest — and high technology are there in abundance. A Brit, Andy Green, and an American, Craig

Breedlove are planning to break the sound barrier in an attempt to exceed the world record of 633.4 mph held by another Brit, Richard Noble, who is backing Green. They will both be driving jet-propelled racing machines (with an engine of 20,000 lbs thrust for Breedlove and two of 22,000 lbs for Green).

And that says it all. None of this is rooted in the real world. We can no longer correlate between two wingless aircraft and the cars we drive. There is danger and high technology to be sure but to package these into a vehicle which looks like two jet engines soldered together has no resonance in an age of low fuel consumption. The humans inside somehow seem redundant however dangerous it is for them. The "cars" could easily be driven by computer. And unlike the start of the century there is no chance of these monsters being precursors of a new generation of road vehicles. Or is there?



Letters to the Editor

Missionary imposition

TO say that Mother Teresa's care is "19th century" (Suns of the missions, October 14) is an insult to the humanitarian traditions of the last century. It is distinctly medieval. One has to realise that she gives this "low-level care" to a small number of people.

Her world famous Home for the Dying in Calcutta (Nirmal Hriday) has 95 places, and conditions are like those of a concentration camp. The West has, of course, jealously guarded this woman over the last half century. It is a fact that she is not criticised in India but such criticism never surfaces in the West.

When it comes to appraising Mother Teresa's work the West makes two vital mistakes: a) at least she is doing something while the others are not; and b) even if the others are doing something or even much more than her, it was she who started it all. As it happens, by far the biggest charitable organisation in India is the Ramakrishna Mission (with headquarters in Calcutta), which was established in 1897. Besides, there is a huge number of Indian charities which are doing excellent work with less than a fraction of the budget of the Missionaries of Charity — we shall of course never know what their finances are, as Mother Teresa has steadfastly refused to publish her accounts.

Whenever she is taken ill, Mother Teresa rushes off to the plush Woodlands Clinic. During her recent near-terminal illness she spent at least Rs 10,000 per day — roughly two months' wages of a Calcutta taxi driver. But why shouldn't she get the best medical care, being the world's No 1 celebrity? Arup Chatterjee, 70 Well Street, London E9 7JA.

CONSIDER your presentation on Mother Teresa utterly disgraceful. She has taken on tasks which none of your contributors would touch with a bargepole and all she gets in her ninth decade is abuse. The fact that Mother Teresa doesn't address the causes of "why

people are poor" is a malicious get-out. It is up to politicians to sort that one out, but in the meantime someone has to relieve the suffering, even if it might not meet Western standards. James P Sullivan, 4 Uplands Road, Bournemouth BH8 8SS.

MY memory of Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying was of destitute Hindus being predominantly "nursed" by middle-class "nurturers" who fed them food they were not used to (good Christian meat dishes) and spoke to them in a language they didn't understand. The display of icons appropriate to their religion was banned. However, the motto by the picture of Mother Teresa herself does clarify the purpose of the exercise being to "die in peace with God".

If I were to pluck dying people off the streets of London, surround them with elephant-headed gods, feed them rice and lentils, patronise them in Bengali, and generally scare most of the remnants of life out of them, would I be afforded the status of living saint that is Mother Teresa? Tim Stillwell, 52 Walford Road, London N16 8ED.

FACILE criticism of Mother Teresa recalls that levelled at Dr Albert Schweitzer and the hospital at Lambarene. Dr Schweitzer was a physician, Mother Teresa is not. Each has in common a pioneering venture in care of the infirm in difficult surroundings.

As for prayer, if those engaged in the difficult task of comforting the distressed and dying draw strength from prayer it is, perhaps, time that their critics looked into its power. For none of them seems willing to go out and do better. J P Walsh, 17 Woodberry Way, London E4 7DY.

SPENT seven months working at Mother Teresa's first "home" at Khalighat in Calcutta after I left school. Criticism is very often given from a Western viewpoint with no understanding of working in India.

When a volunteer has worked for some months, it is possible to put forward ideas. I was a main protagonist in persuading the Khalighat sisters to build an area for washing the soiled blankets separate from the food dishes; to use disinfectant when re-using needles instead of only cold water, to prevent the spread of hepatitis and other infectious diseases; and not to administer aspirins to patients with stomach ulcers. I failed to persuade them that allowing patients newspapers or books would be beneficial to their well-being. There seems to be a general assumption that because God is infallible, so too are his tools the Missionaries of Charity. I am sure that God noted that the child who spent six months dragging himself across the floor had broken his legs. The infallible missionaries believed he had polio — that child is now crippled for life and must rely on charity.

How then to explain the worship of Mother Teresa and the willingness of the Indian government to allow her to stay in the country? Perhaps it is because she is unlikely ever seriously to upstage the government's own efforts to stem the rising population and poverty, and has belatedly realised the public-relations advantages of a real live saint on its doorstep.

The poor worship her because the small scraps of comfort she offers are infinitely more than they could normally expect. The rich and middle classes appreciate her institutions as a relatively sanitised place to distribute sweets to the poor, to save their consciences and better their chances in the Karmic struggle. Dan Leighton, 60 Footing Bee Road, London SW17 8BE.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

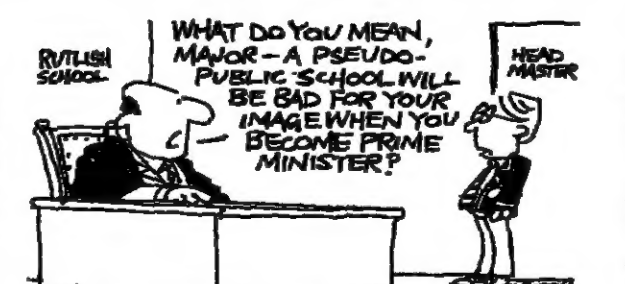
Class tensions

WENT to Rutlish School about nine years before John Major (Major: Now it's personal, October 12, and Letters, October 15). I was one of R A Butler's "babes" who benefited from the opportunities provided by the 1944 Education Act. John Major shared that good fortune.

Success in the entrance examination at the age of 10 seemed a mixed blessing for us pupils, for the regime was severe. Many of the school rules were taken from that other world of "great" public schools which the recently retired headmaster of Rutlish and many senior members of his staff clearly admired. No one would have dared to add the word "grammar" to the proud title "Rutlish School".

A pupil would have worn the obligatory black uniform, which odd pieces of coloured piping and a range of ties were added to denote one's house and increasing seniority. Prefects would wear mortar boards. Naturally we had our army cadet force. If anything, John Major had a privileged educational background for his time. B J Lancaster, 1 Farris Barn Drive, Woodham, Essex.

SO Mr Major claims to be "of the people" because he did not attend a public school. For the vast majority of children, including myself, the doors of grammar schools



were just as firmly shut as those of the independent schools. (Dr) Martyn Bennett, 58 Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3AE.

FOR some reason, John Major must persistently remind us of his supposedly lowly origins in Brixton. Who has forgotten Mr Major's 1992 general election broadcast in which he drove past his one-time Brixton home gasping "Is it still there? Where did he expect it to be?"

Now Mr Major has again reminded us that he reached Downing Street from "two rooms in Brixton". It would be of greater sociological interest were Mr Major to reach two rooms in Brixton via Downing Street, but it is unlikely of him to imply to those who happily inhabit one, two or more rooms in Brixton that there might be something wrong with it. There is certainly room for him here. Simon Berlyn, 5 Probyn Road, London SW2 3LH.

Who will provide emergency treatment for the decrepit NHS?

YOUR report that Hillingdon's over-75s are being denied emergency treatment is almost beyond belief (Hospital in cash crisis bars many elderly, October 10). But saddy, with recent warnings of services being "close to collapse" and the closure of neighbouring casualty units, what is beyond belief is that this crisis was not foreseen.

"A difficulty in discharging elderly patients" is no excuse for refusing older people emergency treatment purely on the grounds of age. If there is such a conflict between clinical and administrative judgment, the consequence must not be older people's deaths, for this will surely prevail. It is unforgivable to tell older people that their lives are worth less than everyone else's.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts and others have already warned that London's health services will be under severe pressure this winter. If this is happening in Hillingdon in October, what is in store for older people as the cold weather bites? Paula Jones, Director, Age Concern London, 54 Knatchbull Road, London SE5.

THE Hillingdon Hospital decision comes just in time to exclude from treatment those soldiers, sailors, merchant navy seamen, airman and auxiliary servicemen and -women who survived the war. Franklin Medhurst, Greystone, Carlton, Stockton, Teesside TS21 1DR.

YOUR report reveals a trend with which we are becoming all too familiar — a disturbing imbalance between the treatment and care needs of elderly and disabled people and the services in place to meet them.

There can be no doubt that this is a system in crisis. The major political parties must address the current crisis in long-term care for the elderly and disabled. Reports that the Queen's Speech may contain no legislative proposals on this issue can only add to the feeling that the crisis is being allowed to develop unchecked.

We need a system in which nursing-care therapy or treatment is properly funded and free of charge wherever delivered (as distinct from "hotel" costs), and we need greater consistency in the provision of care and treatment services in the community. Above all, we need a comprehensive and bold strategy to

meet these needs, otherwise the crisis in long-term care can only deepen. Sylvia McLaughlan, Director-General, The Stroke Association, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

MY wife and I were appalled to see the restrictions on older emergency patients in Hillingdon. My very cynical view is that it is a revenge attack on these people for voting the Conservative out in 1945. Their childhood was in the inter-war years of depression, starvation, poverty and all such ills. The older ones possibly lost their fathers in the carnage of the trenches of the first world war. When the Beveridge plan was brought into being in 1948, they paid their National Insurance charges for the rest of their working life. And since 1979 they have had their state pensions reduced in value year after year. They have had to pay for dentistry and spectacles. Now, at 75, they are very people having their houses sold from under them to pay for their care. What was it that Major said in Bournemouth about the NHS? Alan Brammatt, The Chestnuts, Trader Bank, Sibsey, Boston, Lincs PE20 0UQ.

TO add to your correspondence's recent sightings of modern bollocks-speak "bed-blocker", a term we shall no doubt continue to hear, to describe people over 75 who presumably monopolise hospital beds because there is no where for them to be discharged to. The Hillingdon Health Trust's simple solution: do not let them in. Roy Merritt, 75 Windermere Road, Bristol BS12 8FP.

And briefly... THE "team" illustrated in the Referendum Party's ad (October 15) looks considerably more competent than the lot we've got at the moment, and more trustworthy. (Clr) John Woodford, 18 Town Furlong, Appleton, Oxon OX13 5JW.

LAST week my nearest multi-cinema cinema was showing Emma, Jane Eyre and Jude: total age of the scriptwriters, over 500. Is this a record? John Ewell, 97 Gladstone Street, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 8NE.

A Country Diary

CHILDRENS: It's possible to drive straight across the Chilterns and barely realise you have been there. Guide books usually explain this by likening the region's topography to a clenched fist, facing west. The gaps through which the few rivers and major roads run are represented by the lines between the knuckles and the fingers. Staying with anatomical similes, you might get closer by imagining a worn skeleton's hand, or even overland rows of herons, and so on. The main ridges by labyrinthine of gullies, combs and dry valleys, cut off from each other and barely visible from the road. With a whole October day to walk in I decided to go combe-combing between Skirmett and Assendon. The Hambleton valley itself is too wide open and postcard-pretty to count, but turning west from Skirmett I was soon tacking up a steep lane along the edge of a dry valley. All along the bank were common helleborines, only just

past flowering — a rare treat outside woods. A long haul through the woods brought me out onto what looked like an endless arable prairie. But suddenly another gully appeared, opening wider as it slid down south to Fawley. There was yew scrub at the foot, and much vaster wild yews along the banks of a sharper gully that struck back from it at more than ninety degrees. But in the wood at the shared base of these two hidden ravines was something quite special that I'd first chanced on a few years ago, a stand of ancient coppice stools of that rare native, the large-leaved lime, with its smooth grey poles and timely hairy leaves. Fawley proved to be a parish full of such limes — planted on the green and in farm groves, but all of the wild genotype. Were they perhaps all traceable to truly wild ancestors (like those on the South Downs), isolated in these seclusive vales for millennia? RICHARD MABBY

Diary
Matthew Norman

A namusing exchange of views between two popular actresses develops in Time Out. Last week, the London listings magazine quoted Helena Bonham Carter saying: "If you're not pretty and you're working class, you have an easier time in terms of people's attitudes to you." Wise words from Herbert Asquith's great-granddaughter. On the letters page of the new Time Out, meanwhile, is a thoughtful response from Kathy Burke, the brilliant and very leftwing actress best known on TV as Waynetta Sloh in the Banfield shows. "As a lifelong member of the non-pretty working classes," writes Miss Burke, "I would like to say to Helena Bonham Carter (who has pledged membership of the very posh upper middle classes): shut up you stupid c---." Miss Burke's agent at first denies any knowledge, but cracks after four seconds and describes the letter as "brilliant" while Miss Bonham Carter says: "Oh dear, Helly's a bit fractions at the moment (she's on a night shoot). I don't think I'll bring it to her attention." Perhaps not... but how nice to note the spirit of the Algonquin Round Table among us again.

A SCHISM opens up in the Referendum Party. As founder of a centre-right group of sceptics, Anne McElvoy of the Spectator was invited to dinner in Brighton this week by Carla Powell. However, when she saw Miss McElvoy's piece in *Monday's Telegraph*, Lady Powell rang to inform her on the grounds that "you are not talking seriously enough". Miss McElvoy's ostracism was short lived. Within hours, Lord McAlpine had moved in to book her for a rival dinner party only a few days later. A piece to which Lady Powell objected, by the way, gently suggested that the RP was more concerned with grand socialising than politics. No wonder she was so cross.

D OES anyone have any idea who Kenney Ball and his Jazzman?

In another lurch up-market, Kelvin McKenzie's *Live TV* has made a foray into political reporting, sending Helena Gibson to the conference to grab interviews with party leaders and other senior figures. The one twist was that Miss Gibson wore very little but a tiny camera concealed in her breasts. Anyone keen to learn "who just couldn't resist a peek" (according to one *Live* employee, no one you've ever heard of) can find out on Thursday at 11.30pm.

THE entertaining career of Paul Flynn as the "worst elected boy on Labour's back benches" may be drawing to a close. The Newport MP was due to speak on the platform of anti-monarchy group Republic at a Conference fringe meeting, but at the last minute had second thoughts. "I'm now in a position where, if I receive the Lord's Prayer," wrote Mr Flynn, by way of apology, "I will be accused by certain spin doctors of putting God above Tony Blair."

I AM entranced by my friend Andrew Neil's new book, which the *Daily Mail* is serialising. Ever the foe of self-aggrandisement, Andrew deals with his Christmas Day in Colchester with the family Murdoch and his single-handed reshaping of the monarchy, with the delectation of touches. Old colleagues from the Economist are equally captivated. "He may be very grand today, but he was different when I knew him," says one. "He had a huge blonde playmate who towered high above him, and after a long day at his keyboard he'd turn to a secretary and say, 'She'd better be on her back when I get home.'" Oh, the sweetness. "And now, it's all inches with Diana and Christmas charades with Rupert. Isn't it lovely to see how he's come on?"

THE Book Club of Ireland offers many bargains in its new catalogue, among them *26 or Before* by Gerry Adams. Also reduced is a *Frax* by the best pictured next to it on the page, Lucille's Explosions.

I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY NAME TO MICHELLE HOWARD.



Classless society that never was

Commentary
Catherine Bennett

HOW seriously should we take John Major's recent expressions of sympathy with Class War? Does he consider his target CJs so dimwitted that nose will compute the number of old-school ties in his own party? Or, now that the next election is becoming a straight, man-to-man contest with Tony Blair, is he, conceivably, being genuine?

attitudes towards privilege and private education can scarcely endear Major to the old-school-tie-owners he supposedly represents, such as the "incensed" old *Festivals Daily Telegraph* reader who wrote in to protest against Major's implied plans for "classless mediocrity". But *Daily Telegraph* readers should not repine. Major's record on class is unimpeachable: far from dissolving the boundaries, he has entrenched them. His personal indignation may be authentic, but it will not be translated into revolutionary action. In his sublime piece of inverted snobbery, Major was not offering to assuage class distinctions, merely animating them. Naturally he exaggerated for effect, claiming to have left school early because of parental hardship. Back in 1990, he said the decision was his own free choice. Even then, in his campaign to become party leader, the Brixton and trapeze-artist associations proved most effective. "He has tasted life in a terraced house in a dreary suburb," exulted *The Sun*. "He has even known unemployment." In his early speeches, Major spoke sweetly of a "society" (an entity previously denied by Mrs Thatcher) in which classlessness would thrive: "a society of opportunity, an open society, a society in which what people will fulfil will depend upon their talent, their application and their good fortune."

As we know, all this has turned out to be the purest piffle. Unless there is something meaningful in the elevation of a few more lollipop ladies, Britain remains as consumed by snobbery and sycophancy as ever. Major and his family have not become emblems of classlessness, but figures of twelfth-century lower-middle-class fun: connoisseurs of Bullfinch and garden gnomes, fans of curry dinners and Little Chefs. The hereditary peerage is equally unchanged, safe in Major's obedient, underprivileged hands. Reform of the House of Lords has dismissed as "spiteful, thoughtless irrelevance". As for talent: the pointed, but hugely posh Nicholas Soames is not merely given a job, but applauded for his witicism. "Another large gin and tonic Giovanni, if you please", uttered every time John Prescott rises to speak. What would Soames shout at Major were they not on the same side? Like his equally lowly predecessor, Mrs Thatcher, Major has continued to nurture private education, to concentrate wealth, and to restrict the opportunities of children of the ignorant and poor. The Assisted Places Scheme, for instance, has chiefly benefited the canner

members of the middle classes. Major's latest wheeze — the abolition of inheritance tax — is equally unlikely to transform the prospects of Sierra Maestra. Britain remains, as surely as it was in Orwell's day, "the most class-ridden country under the sun". If it is no longer, as Orwell charged, run by the "old and silly", it is simply run by a different class: the wealthy and privately educated, and organised under different tags and stratifications: Sierra Man, Islington Man, Worcester Woman, the CJs. Such is the astonishing resilience of the class system that it simply absorbs newcomers, teaches them the rules and regulations, and sends them forth to perpetuate snobbery, straight or inverted, in the next generation. Even if their parents were untutored in the niceties, pupils at public schools and Oxbridge rapidly absorb the correct mannerisms, learn to tell the appropriate from the embarrassing in clothes, furnishings, food, gardens, houses and holidays.

WHAT these children acquire, above all, is a kind of impervious self-confidence. George Orwell identified that familiar, cultivated note of "famous self-confidence" and no matter how scuffily he dressed, nor how ostentatiously he slurped his tea from a saucer, he could not conceal it in himself. Jack Common, who Bernard Crick describes as one of England's few "authentic proletarian writers", recalled meeting a shabby, ravaged-looking Orwell: "A sheep in wolf's clothing. I thought, taking in the height and stance, accent and cool, in-built superiority of the public-school presence."

Name dropping in the city streets



David McKie

THE MOST common street name in Britain today is High Street, followed by Station Road, London Road and Church Road. The shortest are Cob, near Okehampton, Devon, and Rye, near Bridgwater, Somerset. And the longest, according to computer analysis of nearly 1.5 million navigable roads known to the Ordnance Survey, is Bolderwoodian, return Ornamental Drive, in the New Forest. This road, we are told, is two-and-a-half miles long and harbours only one house, occupied by a Mr and Mrs Stride.

close, a court, a crescent, a road, a square and a walk, but not one has a forename to help you identify who is being saluted. John Bright Street, yes; but he only gets in because both his names were monosyllabic. Two years ago, the council at Midsomer Norton wanted to call a new street Reg Jones Close, after a local worthy, recently dead at 93. The people buying houses there wouldn't have it: they wanted Wellow Brook Meadow. Jones Close might have made it: the Reg was the killer, in Mangotsfield, Bristol, developers dashingly chose the names Wallace Walk and Gromit Grove, in honour of the Bristolian animator Nick Park. The locals would not wear that either. Where in continental Europe the naming of streets is the opportunity, in Britain it's been more like a chore. Take those ranks upon ranks of working-class streets run up in the Industrial Revolution. If you drove out of Leeds on Harehills Road (no doubt a different name you passed to the east nine Bayswaters, three Efforts, three Bansteads, two Lascelles and one Back Lascelles (for many Leeds streets had duplicate names behind them: Carter Terrace at the front of your house, Back Carter Terrace at the end of the garden). Builders stuck for names used their own, or picked on some relative, and then multiplied the names across several streets. Thus in Leeds there's an *Ida View* and an *Ida View* and an *Elsie View*, along with a *Pasture View* and a *Pleasant View* (which to judge by the map probably wasn't). There is (or was) a *Neville Approach* and a *Neville Avenue*, *Clare Crescent*, *Garth Grove*, *Mount Parade*, *Place Road*, *Row Street*, *Terrace View* and *Walk*.

Not guilty, Sir James

Don't believe Sir James Goldsmith's fictions, warns Leon Brittan: his newspaper ad asserting that Brussels runs Britain is a dangerous distortion

HONOURED though I and my 19 Commission colleagues may have been to be considered members of the British Government, the newspaper advertisement from Sir James Goldsmith yesterday paints a dangerously distorted picture of the role and powers that the Commission exercises. It was all the more startling to see such fiction presented among the news pages of several reputable British dailies.

ment, then I'm Sir James Goldsmith. As for the European Court of Justice: behind the steady stream of British "defeats" at the hands of foreign judges, paraded publicly in the British press, lies a far greater number of cases where Britain has either won or the Court has ruled that Europe should keep its hands off the issue. Court rulings have helped Jaguar to sell cars in Italy and Sotheby's to hold auctions in France as well as boosting sales of lemonade to Greece and chewing gum to Spain, to cite some of the more colourful examples. But the real needs of British business are often overlooked in the myopic debate about British sovereignty.

Those who adopt the museum-curator's view of national sovereignty — that it must be kept absolutely intact in its original form rather than adapted to modern-day usage — will argue that any pooling of power with Britain's European partners amounts to the creation of a federal European super-state. This is factually incorrect; and in my view that, if followed, would have done us immense harm. Had such a path been pursued over the last 20 years, we would have had no influence over the common market, no say in Europe's dealings with America and other world partners, and no chance to reform key European policies (such as agriculture) which will affect our daily lives whether we are in or out. And those who argue that Britain is powerless to reform Europe from within are defeatist.

There is simply no truth in the view that the British economy is run for Europe's benefit, with Brussels increasing our taxes and lowering our incomes. Brussels does not determine our tax rates or incomes, and almost all Euro-legislation emerging these days is geared to removing barriers to exports and investment abroad, rather than the other way round. This gives the British Government a chance to raise income and create jobs.

mission, incidentally, has a very modest role in the first two, a detail that is conveniently omitted, is maximising its influence on the common market, and on international criminals and selling exports more effectively by cooperating with its European neighbours. To the museum-curator that is a sell-out; to the realist it is an astute defence of British interests. In a rapidly changing world.

EVEN when developers used their imagination the results were often workaday: Accommodation Road, Domestic Street, Industrial Street — and, perhaps more surprisingly, *Privilege Street*. Later the treatment of streets in the leafy suburbs was equally formulaic: *Acacia Avenue*, the *Beeches Meadow Valley*, (Why, by the way, do *scacias* mean so much to developers, and so little to poets?) There used to be a place in Leeds called *Hark to Rover*, after a dog which once barked there, but Bradford will grant a *Bonlevard Alderman Stafford Heginbotham* (36 letters); or *Glasgow*, a Henry and Charlotte Campbell-Bannerman *Eplanade* (43). If that day comes, Bolderwood Arboretum Ornamental Drive will need to look to its laurels.

To imply that the European Commission is in any way akin to, or as powerful as, the British Government is as insulting to Westminster as it is flattering to Brussels. The reins of power within the European Union rest firmly

in the hands of British and other European ministers, where they belong. The Commission's job is to put forward proposals that can be taken up or overturned by the British and other European governments (as they often are), to execute the common instructions of those governments, and to enforce the treaties agreed unanimously by heads of state (including Britain's). In the few areas where the Commission has the power to act alone — fighting unfair subsidies and illegal cartels, for example — it has grossly helped British companies by forcing their foreign competitors to play fair on the European market, where Britain sends most of its exports. If this amounts to replacing the British Govern-

ment, then I'm Sir James Goldsmith. As for the European Court of Justice: behind the steady stream of British "defeats" at the hands of foreign judges, paraded publicly in the British press, lies a far greater number of cases where Britain has either won or the Court has ruled that Europe should keep its hands off the issue. Court rulings have helped Jaguar to sell cars in Italy and Sotheby's to hold auctions in France as well as boosting sales of lemonade to Greece and chewing gum to Spain, to cite some of the more colourful examples. But the real needs of British business are often overlooked in the myopic debate about British sovereignty.

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Natasha Walter calls for the 'newspaper' that exploits violence against women to be hoisted on to the top shelves in newsagents

The sport of misogyny



WHAT a bizarre publication the *Sport* newspaper is, flaunting its knickers and banner headlines of gibberish at the end of the row of newspapers in your corner shop. You would like to see it as marginal, a silly little

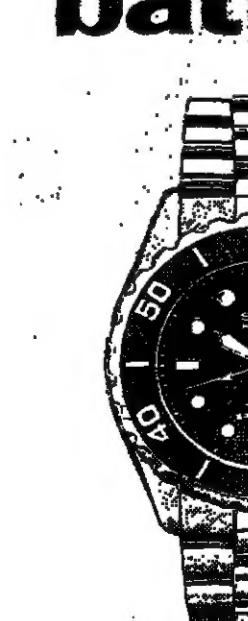
rag of no importance to anyone. But as its editor, Jeremy Paxman, reminded me on Monday night, it has more readers than *Newswatch* has viewers. When the *Guardian* printed its list of newspaper circulation figures last

Monday, the *Sport* was nowhere to be seen, and yet it sells more copies than the *Independent*. Its recent behaviour has reminded us that we would be wrong to ignore it. Yesterday, for the second time, it printed a list of telephone

numbers for four women in Manchester who had complained about a strippers' bar, or what is now more fashionably called a lap-dancing club. The club faces a ban on stripping because of the actions of the complainants, three of whom are local councillors. Whether or not you support their campaign, spare a thought for the women now. Their telephones have been blocked by callers keen to harass them and inform them, proudly, that they are *Sport* readers.

me, *Jury told*, about a gunman accused of raping a woman four times a day; alongside news of a "raven-haired beauty" threatened with a knife.

Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetic® the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it daily - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 bar water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Seiko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

BUT putting the *Sport* on to the top shelf is not censorship. It does not involve prosecuting the paper or demanding that it change its content. The *Sport* can be allowed to go on saying what it says, and doing what it does, but in a place that is less calculated to offend people who loathe it and everything it stands for. Above all, it would show that we are not proud to accept the idea that the abuse of women is so mainstream that we can happily call it "sport", and see children laughing over it as they buy their ice-creams. The British do have strong attitudes to sex. Teenage girls' magazines that provide sex education are rebuked by MPs; British adults are not allowed to watch people making love on television; women are not allowed to dream over a picture of an erect penis. And yet we accept that a publication mainly dedicated to the abuse of women is a newspaper. Does it have to be like this?

Seiko Kinetic at: <http://www.seiko-corp.co.jp>

10 OBITUARIES

Henri Nannen

Hoaxed by Hitler

AS FOUNDED editor of the weekly magazine Stern, Henri Nannen, who has died aged 82, was one of post-war Germany's most influential journalists...

from a German museum in 1962. Nannen offered to pay the thieves DM100,000 for its safe return. When the work was sent back to the museum...

came one of the most powerful advocates of the new policy, which was vigorously opposed by the newspapers owned by the rightwing press baron Axel Springer...



Star struck... Stern magazine provided the high and low points of Henri Nannen's career

Daer, dealt an almost fatal blow to Stern's reputation in Germany. Rival journalists, who had endured the arrogant air of omnipotence that Nannen instilled in his journalists...



Betty Gathergood

At home with Dr Johnson

ONE weekend last July, I had to ring Betty Gathergood at her Windsor home. During the course of a lengthy conversation she made a slip...

treasures before incendiaries and firemen's hoses took their toll. The Daily Mirror building's basement was something of a squalid and dingy mother and daughter's strongroom in a sub-basement of the Evening News was security for the treasures...

Betty was the third generation of her family to become curator at the house. Her grandmother, Isabella Dwyll, moved into the new curator's 'lodge' in 1912...

Denis Staunton
Henri Nannen, journalist, born December 25, 1913; died October 13, 1996



Betty Gathergood... charm

first time, exhibitions were being mounted. In 1933, Betty attended one such opening, following the sudden death of Margaret Elliot. She asked me if there was anything she could do to help...

Lord Hammsworth
Bertha (Betty) Phyllis Gathergood, curator, born February 18, 1916; died September 25, 1996

Jack Pepys

Mouldy hay and other allergies

JACK Pepys, who has died aged 82, transformed allergy from being regarded as a barely respectable subject of research into one based on firm scientific foundations...

fication of its cause showed the way to prevent the disease. Applying similar methods, he demonstrated the immunological basis of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis...

He was born in Johannesburg, and qualified in medicine at the University of Witwatersrand. After 14 years in general practice in South Africa, he moved with his family to London in 1948...

HE WAS a prolific and clear writer, and a wonderful speaker. His annual Christmas lectures at the Brompton were a masterpiece, often hilarious, review of the institution's progress...

Anthony Newman Taylor
Jack Pepys, immunologist, born May 16, 1914; died September 9, 1996



Bathing beauty... Laura La Plante as the bubbly heroine of the 1927 film The Love Thrill

Laura La Plante

Silent comedy in the boudoir

THE top stars at Universal Pictures in the 1920s were Lon Chaney, Priscilla Dean, Herbert Rawlinson, Reginald Denry and Laura La Plante, who has died aged 91...

made her name in boudoir comedies with titillating titles such as The Dangerous Blonde (1924), Smouldering Fires (1925) and The Tamer (1926). The last was directed by former Keystone Kop, William A. Seiter...

Ironically, her most famous role was in the classic haunted-house melodrama The Cat and the Canary (1927), German director Paul Leni's first Hollywood film...

Back in Hollywood, La Plante was briefly considered by MGM to take over from Myrna Loy in the Thin Man series, but she only managed two further film roles...

Ronald Bergan
Laura La Plante, screen actress, born November 1, 1904; died October 14, 1996

Birthdays

Peter Bowles, actor, 60; Dr Stefan Buczacki, biologist, broadcaster and author, 51; Max Bygraves, singer and entertainer, 74; Alison Chitty, theatre designer, 48; David Congdon, Conservative MP, 47; Michael Forsyth MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, 42; Paul Gallagher, general secretary, Associated Engineering and Electrical Union, 52; Gunter Grass, novelist, 69; Terry Griffiths, former world snooker champion, 49; Angela Lansbury, actress, 71; Sir Peter Large, chairman, Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People, 65; Lord (Murray) MacLohose of Beoch, former governor, Hong Kong, 79; Stuart MacLeod, fashion designer, 37; Hugh MacMillan, chief constable, Northern Constabulary, 64; Margaret Nabarro, musician, Liberal Democrat MP, 55; The Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, president, Queens' College, Cambridge, 66; Simon Ward, actor, 56; William Webb, conductor and artistic director, 49; John Whittingdale, Conservative MP, 37.

Death Notices

EDWARD, Janet Gabriel Mary, Popularity on 12 October at St. Wilfrid's Hospice, Doncaster, surrounded by her family. Private family funeral service will take place at 12 noon on Wednesday 20 October at St. Peter's, West. Whittington. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date. In loving memory of a dear friend, Mrs. George's Hospital Special Trustees, Cancer Victims Campaign and sure to succeed. West Sussex PD 159.

In Memoriam

MEMORIAL devoted to three years with your wife. Loved and missed as much.

Birthdays

SEN CASTLE, who reached double figures happy birthday with love. Mum, Dad and Tim.

Jackdaw



Bogus banter

Quantum Bogodynamics: A theory that characterises the universe in terms of bogon sources (such as politicians, used-car salesmen, TV evangelists, and suits in general), bogon sinks (such as taxpayers and computers), and bogosity potential fields. The Bogon absorption causes human beings to behave mindlessly and machines to fail (and may also cause both to emit secondary bogons); however, the precise mechanics of bogon-computer interaction are not yet understood. Quantum bogodynamics is most often invoked to explain the sharp increase in hard-

ware and software failures in the presence of suits; the latter emit bogons, which the former absorb. Bogon/bogon [by analogy with proton/electron/neutron, but doubtless reinforced by the similarity to Douglas Adams's 'Vogons'] 1. The elementary particle of bogosity (see quantum bogodynamics). For instance, 'The Ethernet is emitting bogons again' means that it is broken or acting in an erratic or bogus fashion. 2. A query packet sent from a TCP/IP domain resolver to a root server, having the reply bogon 1980 by the query bit. 3. Any bogon or incorrectly formed packet sent on a network. 4. A person who is bogus or who says bogus things. This was historically the original usage, but has been overtaken by its derivative senses. See also bogosity, bogus, compare psyton, fat electrons, magic smoke. 'Bogus and uncomfortable "business clothing" often worn by non-hackers. Invariably worn with a "tie", a strangulation device that partially cuts off the blood supply to the brain. It is thought that this explains much about the behaviour of suit-wearers. Bogometer: A notional instrument for measuring bogosity. Compare the "wankometer" described in the wank entry. Bogon filter: Any device, software or hardware, that limits or suppresses the flow and/or content of bogons. "Engineering hacked a bogon filter between the Cray and the VAXen, and now we're getting fewer dropped packets." See also bogosity, bogus. Bogosity: The degree to which something is bogus. At CMU, bogosity is measured with a bogometer; in a seminar, when a speaker says something bogus, a listener might raise his hand and say, "My bogometer just triggered." Bogon out: To become bogus, suddenly and unexpectedly. "His talk was relatively sane until someone asked him a trick question: then he bogoned out and did nothing but lame afterwords." A bogus quote from the Free Online Dictionary of Comput-

ing at http://www.bot.doc.ic.ac.uk/ Thanks to Andy Stout. Crime cock-up TWO MEN held up a petrol station in Chorlton, Manchester, in July 1995. They were armed with a tin of carrots, which they threatened to throw at the cashier, and escaped with over £300. October 1994 saw the theft of a nice unobtrusive little motor in Birmingham: unobtrusive, that is, apart from the eight-foot tall hedgehog on top. Owner John Davies, who used the car to advertise a children's centre, described the thief as either a "blind man or a raving idiot, because it's so distinguishable." In August 1995 a burglar tried to force his terrified woman victim to down a spiked drink to keep her quiet while he ransacked her house in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. When the hysterical woman refused to touch it, he took a swig to prove that it wasn't poisonous. Police later found him collapsed, still holding her jewels and cash.

An Italian who turned to matching handbags to finance his drug addiction came unstick in August 1995, when he robbed his own mother by mistake. The woman was walking along the street in Bari when her son, who didn't see her face until it was too late, sped past on a motorcycle and snatched her bag. Recognising him, his mother was so angry that she apparently climbed up a river bank and headed across dry land. The eight-pound fish ended up on a kitchen table with three others, when police arrived to arrest Paul Williams, who pleaded guilty to poaching in March 1994. Farical felonies from the Fortean Times book of Inept Crimes.

He should have told me, "I'm Hugh Grant the movie star don't tell them and I'll talk to you later." Then I would have had all the understanding in the world. But he didn't. Now all I want is an apology, then the video (soft porn "movie", Talkin' For Granted) and all this roadshow would stop. I wouldn't say I'm exploiting him. The way I see it we both got something out of the deal - now the whole world knows him and the whole world knows me. People ask if I have stopped to think about his girlfriend in all of this - they wonder if I hate her. Of course I don't. In fact, I've got Estee Lauder make-up in my purse. I could teach her a few things, though you wanna hold onto your man - you have to entertain him. Men come to me because they aren't getting it at home. I'm writing a book about it, Divine Revelations. If only she'd known a few simple rules, think how much heartache could have been saved. Divine Brown on Hugh Grant in the new edition of Arena.

Private views TODAY we can reveal that a black-and-white publication which for 25 years has been purporting to be a newspaper is in fact a gigantic hoax perpetrated on the public by a sinister Australian-born lunatic. It now turns out that after five minutes of investigation, the Sun has never been a newspaper at all. It is merely a collection of pic-

tures of women in their underwears accompanied by exhortations to vote Conservative by various clapped-out old hacks. Full story, p94. EX-TORY minister Neil Hamilton shocked the world yesterday by admitting that he was guilty of openly accepting votes from local constituents when he should have been representing efficient foreign businessmen. The shocking truth was revealed to one of Hamilton's business associates, who was later quoted as saying: "This is an absolute disaster. I've always been loyal to the man and I've always gone down to the local cashpoint booth in order that I might exercise my democratic right to bribe an MP. This will be the last time he gets my loot, I can tell you!" News Private Eye style.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-715 4966; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 111 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Emily Sheffield

Banks play
Bar
BZW go
as nerve
Whitbread to
Brewer
is big
cheese
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Finance Guardian

Barclays piles into cash

BZW goes Global as nerves fray

AS FUND managers get nervous about the security of world stock markets, Barclays Bank yesterday admitted that it now holds up to 5 per cent of the value of its huge £223 billion investment portfolio in cash.

The bank, which yesterday announced a restructuring programme to consolidate its position as the world's second largest fund manager, disclosed that since the beginning of the year it had increased the average liquidity of funds from 2 per cent to between 4 and 5 per cent of all money under management.

Chief executive Lindsay Tomlinson told the Guardian that the move reflected concerns about "where the market has got to".

The group would be prepared to liquidate up to 10 per cent of its portfolio if it was "super-bearish".

But Mr Tomlinson insisted that, although it was watching the market carefully, it had not yet seen "a trigger point" to indicate that markets were on the way down.

Despite the decision to increase liquidity, he felt that PPFM, the fund managers who recently fuelled widespread controversy with the disclosure that 10 per cent of their holdings are now held in cash, had been premature in their assessment of markets prospects.

The news emerged as Barclays consolidated its position as a world-ranking fund manager by announcing the merger of its BZW Investment Management arm with BZW Barclays Global Investors —

the San Francisco-based Wells Fargo Nikko Investments it took over last year.

Merging the two companies under the banner of Barclays Global Investors, will establish a unified investment strategy to help win new business, said Mr Tomlinson. It will create a fund management operation with more than 1,300 employees based in 22 countries across the world.

Mr Tomlinson added that the decision to merge the businesses was based on their conviction that "the entire (fund management) business is globalising and getting away from the focus on the City of London."

He added that there were potential conflicts of interest when marketing Barclays services because the San Francisco operation sells computer based products, especially funds designed to "track" stock market indexes. By contrast, the London fund manager is predominantly based on traditional investment analytical techniques.

Mr Tomlinson, who will take over the role of joint chief executive responsible for Europe, Japan and Asia, said the bank plans to combine these investment techniques. The new group will be headed by Fred Grauer, who is stepping up from chairman of BZW Barclays Global Investors.

Patricia Dunn will be Mr Tomlinson's counterpart as chief executive for the Americas.

The move looks set to be a central plank in plans by Bar-

clays chief executive Martin Taylor to link the fund management and retail banking closer with the commercial and investment banking operations.

The new group will be headquartered in San Francisco although this will have no impact on the legal and fiscal implications for funds managed out of London.

The group's new chairman, Mr Grauer, added: "We are forming Barclays Global Investors to enable us to be more effective in achieving our shared vision of providing what our clients want: reliable investment performance, the convenience of dealing with a single global firm, and the benefits of our increased scale of operations."

Notebook

East Asian tigers are endangered



Edited by Alex Brummer

AMONG the reasons the richest industrial countries have been so anxious to double the IMF's emergency credit lines to \$50 billion is that a new Mexican-style crisis is feared, this time in the Far East.

The upsurge in the Pacific economies has stimulated enormous private sector capital flows, which have been substituted for domestic saving, potentially leading to an unstable financial situation.

The question has been whether Asian tiger would be the first domino to fall.

Certainly, the situation in Thailand is starting to look dicey. The finance minister, Boon Chuananda, has resigned after a slump in investor confidence and shrinking demand in key sectors, including construction, property and finance — all symbols of a bubble economy. Similarly there has been a focus on recent uncertainty in Indonesia, as the stability and human rights record of the Suharto regime has become an issue.

These are not just problems in far-off places. A misunderstanding between brokers Cazenove and client Standard Chartered provides some insight into how the Far East's deteriorating economic position could come home to the City of London.

Reports, subsequently corrected, that Cazenove was downgrading the loan book of Standard Chartered sent the bank's shares sharply downwards, until Cazenove pointed out it was the downturn in the region, not problems in Standard Chartered's loan book which were highlighted.

Nevertheless, there is a great deal of sensitivity in the loan books of Standard Chartered and HSBC to political and economic conditions in the Far East. Both banks have benefited much from the healthy growth of the East Asian economies.

But both banks might have to adjust their provisions and future profits, should that explosive growth slow or be reversed.

A new study by the European Network on Debt & Development on the exposure of creditor countries found that around half the loans of UK banks to emerging markets economies — some \$20.6 billion — are in the Far East. (The group acknowledges that its data are incomplete because of commercial bank confidentiality.) Risk on this scale needs careful monitoring.

eyes beyond the party conference horizon. And the next big date is November 26 — Budget Day.

Already the Chancellor's mailbag is filling, with submissions and suggestions from all quarters. The latest is the regular letter from the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George.

This year Mr George warns Kenneth Clarke to resist the pressure from his back benches for deep cuts in income tax, and concentrate instead on reducing borrowing. There is plenty of evidence from elsewhere to back the Bank's view, the latest Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs forecast is for public borrowing to hit £22 billion in the year 1996-97, against the £24 billion predicted in last year's Budget.

All of which, of course, is extraordinarily helpful to the Chancellor — which is why Treasury spin-control has been at pains last night to stress just how close the governor's views were to their own.

As he brings this year's public spending round to a close, Mr Clarke can point to the Bank's advice as he takes the knife to the cash piles of right-wing spending ministers, who are always the most attached to their budgets.

"Of course," the Chancellor will be saying in meetings, "we could give all this money away in tax cuts and still spend loads on roads and schools. But then I'd have to put up interest rates, and mortgage rates would soon follow. How do you reckon that would go down in your constituency?"

Even though this could be his last Budget, Mr Clarke remains the consummate politician, and is almost certain to get his way.

Whitbread tops off buying spree with Pizzaland deal that will net Guthrie team £15m

Brewer is big cheese after bidding £90m

Paul Sharkey

WHITBREAD is poised to take over the Pizzaland restaurant chain owner, Brightreasons, in a deal which will net the management, led by the former boss of Mecca Leisure, Michael Guthrie, about £15 million.



To go... Pizzaland is believed to be Britain's largest privately owned restaurant group and, below, winner Michael Guthrie

The brewing firm is thought to have offered about £90 million for the 180-branch group, which also includes the Bella Pasta and Pizza Piazza restaurants. It is believed to be Britain's largest privately owned restaurant group.

Whitbread is understood to have been in talks to buy Brightreasons for several weeks, with the Pizzaland chain also exploring another attempt at a stock market flotation after its failure to do so two years ago.

Whitbread is thought to have outbid City Centre Restaurants, which owns the Deep Pan Pizza and Garlick's, in the takeover.

Mr Guthrie put together the management team which bought most of the restaurant chain from Grand Metropolitan five years ago, with the help of venture capital from Morgan Grenfell and Mercury Asset Management.

But the planned Stock Exchange listing two years ago had to be abandoned, with investors then reluctant to value the company at £70 million.

There has been speculation that Mr Guthrie, who is likely to earn around £5 million from an invest-

ment of £200,000 at the time of the buy-out, wanted to go for a stock market quotation and then use the company as a vehicle for further acquisitions.

He is most famous for an earlier management buy-out — paying Grand Metropolitan £95 million for the Mecca Leisure business in 1985 and floating it on the stock market within 10 months.

He is expected to leave the business once Whitbread takes over. Now aged 56, he has insisted recently that he would like to run another public company.

A flurry of deals in the leisure industry over recent weeks — capped by Whitbread's £133 million takeover of the Pelican restaurant group — has convinced Brightreasons' venture capital backers to go for a trade sale now. The accountants Deloitte & Touche were brought in to handle the deal.

Costs associated with the

failed stock market float sent Brightreasons into loss last year, but figures for the period to the end of September suggest the company has bounced back to profits of £4 million on turnover of £65 million.

The Pizzaland chain, which GrandMet bought from United Biscuits, was acquired for an undisclosed sum in 1991, with Mr Guthrie subsequently bolting on the Bella Pasta and Pizza Piazza outlets, bought from Rank.

Whitbread has pursued a rapid acquisition programme which has seen it expand into other corners of the leisure industry, such as the takeover of the David Lloyd's tennis and fitness clubs last year.

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PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BROWN

Whitbread eateries

Pizza Hubs	242	Pelican Group	66
"Full services"	96	Cafe Rouge	12
"Delivery units"	96	Dome	5
"Express outlets"	96	Brasseries	5
Food pubs	280	Mamma Amalfi	9
Beefeaters	309	"Development concepts"	11
Brewers' Flavys pub/restaurants	309	Germany	11
TGI Fridays	22	Mexico and Churrasco outlets	56

MPs check 'rush' flight control sale

Kathie Harpur and Simon Beavis

AN URGENT investigation reports that the Government is to privatise air traffic control to pay for pre-flight control tax cuts to be carried out by the Commons transport select committee.

It hopes to begin hearings at the end of the month and has interrupted its inquiry into road maintenance to quiz the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, a Labour committee member, said yesterday that after its last inquiry into privatisation of the service, it received assurances from ministers that "a proper round of consultation would be a pre-requisite to any such moves."

She said the committee had "real concerns" relating to the maintenance of a two-centre strategy. At the heart were aviation safety and the prospect of two private companies controlling the needs of the armed forces.

Ministers deny planning legislation to privatise the service, although this might not be required. At stake are the new control centre at Swanwick in Hampshire — which is due to take over from the old centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow at the end of next year — and a planned centre near Glasgow.

Selling the service would produce around £600 million for the Government.

Hollick wins battle of Blenheim

Patrick Donovan City Editor

LORD HOLICK'S United News & Media yesterday emerged triumphant in the long-running bidding war for the besieged Blenheim group by unleashing a £582.5 million takeover offer to become the world's biggest operator of trade and business exhibitions.

The 500p-a-share cash bid ends months of speculation about the future of Blenheim which was also being stalked by United News's main rivals, VNU and Reed-Elsevier.

Lord Hollick yesterday said there was huge synergy between Blenheim and United's Miller Freeman division, which publishes trade magazines and runs large trade exhibitions.

He promised the merger would enhance United's earnings in the first full year.

The deal, which is the first big acquisition since the merger of Lord Hollick's MAI with United News earlier this year, will create an exhibition group with a turnover of more than £500 million a year.

Based on last year's earnings, the acquisition will lift

the operating profit contribution of the business services division by just under 10 per cent, significantly more than the Express stable of national newspapers.

The deal represents a blow for Reed-Elsevier, which had been attempting to strike a merger deal with Blenheim. Dutch publisher VNU last week came into the running as it snapped up a 15 per cent stake in the bid target. Its promise to sell its stake helped United yesterday to secure victory by clinching well over 50 per cent of the shares.

The deal went the backing of

the City, with United shares surging 39p to 622p. Blenheim climbed 21p to 495p.

Terms of the 500p cash offer mean that Blenheim shareholders will be entitled to keep the interim dividend of 3.675p. It values Blenheim convertible preference shares at 100p apiece.

Lord Hollick added: "This merger creates a world leader in a fast-growing business-to-business sector. The fit between Miller Freeman and Blenheim is remarkably good. The combination will create an exciting range of opportunities for future growth."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9310	France 7.9220	Italy 2.362	Singapore 2.178
Austria 16.51	Germany 2.3466	Malta 0.5490	South Africa 6.7
Belgium 48.30	Greece 370.50	Netherlands 2.6380	Spain 197.35
Canada 2.08	Hong Kong 11.91	New Zealand 2.2085	Sweden 10.26
Cyprus 0.7125	India 58.32	Norway 10.01	Switzerland 1317
Denmark 9.044	Ireland 0.9625	Portugal 236.40	Turkey 142.258
Finland 7.520	Israel 5.03	Russia 6.89	USA 1.5690

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian Rupee and Israeli Shekel)

RTZ keeps in good odour by footing bill to save the desert tortoise

Ian King in Los Angeles

THE mining giant RTZ has overcome nearly every obstacle during its decades of exploring and mining. Frozen wastes, scorched desert, armed insurgents.

But now the group has run into some serious trouble: the desert tortoise.

Listed as a threatened species under the United States Endangered Species Act, it is costing RTZ more than \$1 million.

Not that RTZ is implicated in plugging tortoise numbers in California's Mojave desert. Drought and a mysterious flu-like illness appear to be to blame. But RTZ happens to be the tortoise's richest neighbour. It mines borax, best-known in Britain as smelly foot powder.

As a result, the British combine now funds itself the proprietor of a 2,400-acre tortoise reservation. Mined areas are being returned to their original state and RTZ is trying to find ways of reintroducing

desert plants. In return, it has been permitted by the state to continue mining borax.

But RTZ should beware: hard by its borax mine is the Edwards air-force base, featured in numerous UFO tales. The tortoise may not be alone; the supply of "endangered species" may prove to be limitless.

Bonus-claimer denies blame

Colin Weston

MARY WALZ, the former Barings director who is claiming an unpaid £500,000 bonus, yesterday admitted she would not have expected the money if the £280 million in losses incurred by the merchant bank had been unearthened before her pay deal had been agreed.

Ms Walz, whom the Bank of England report on the collapse criticised for failing to monitor the activities of trader Nick Leeson, told the second day of an industrial tribunal hearing in Stratford, London, that she was not directly responsible for Mr Leeson, whose unlawful trading in Singapore broke the bank.

Ms Walz, aged 36, faces a Securities and Futures Authority hearing which could ban her for three years from a post similar to her former executive position.

Details of the bank's losses emerged in February 1995, the day after Andrew Tuckey, deputy chairman of Barings,

allegedly handed her a slip of paper promising a £500,000 profit-related bonus on top of her £91,000 salary.

The bank is now owned by Dutch bank ING, against whom Ms Walz is claiming.

Asked if she would have expected to receive the half-million pound bonus "had the Singapore situation been fully known," Ms Walz said: "I'd have felt there would be no bonus."

Under cross-examination by Nicholas Underhill, for ING Barings, she said there had been no formal notification retracting her bonus. In a conversation with Mr Tuckey in early March she had reported hearing rumours that her bonus was not to be paid, to which he had said: "Well Mary, there may be some truth in that." She denied that she had accepted a "zero" bonus at that meeting.

Ms Walz said bonuses totaling £2 million to £3 million each had been guaranteed to some staff in the section of Barings for which she worked. The hearing continues.

Wednesday October 16 1996
good
me with
Johnson
Death Notices
In Memoriam
Birthdays
Emily Sheffield

Co-operative Bank managing director Terry Thomas challenges rivals to promise that they will not finance the manufacture of land-mines



Terry Thomas: 'I hope all the banks will put commercial rivalry to one side to ensure the elimination of land-mines' PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER THOMSON

Lenders make a killing

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE extent to which high street banks have financed arms sales to repressive regimes with the active support of the Government is highlighted in a report published today by the World Development Movement, a leading Third World pressure group. Citing Midland, Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays, its says banks admitted their willingness to fund arms deals in the new open market for weapons after the end of the cold war. An expert for the Co-operative Bank, which today is cleared by the Advertising Standards Authority after a complaint by Midland. The Co-op used a picture of a landmine to make the point that it "did not and will not, finance the sale of arms to Iraq, Iran or any other oppressive regime". The advertisement, placed in the national press following publication of the Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq scandal earlier this year, did not name Midland. But it was the only bank specifically mentioned in the Scott inquiry. Despite aggressive marketing and fierce competition, the arms trade is shielded by commercial and military secrecy. However, evidence obtained by the WDM shows that Midland helped to finance the sale of Hawk jets to Indonesia in 1993. According to the WDM, the jets have been seen over East Timor, where a third of the population has been killed since the Indonesian invasion in 1975. In the 1980s, Midland set up

An evil trade that banks can stop

TODAY 66 people will be killed or maimed by anti-personnel landmines. This is a horrific statistic, especially for a banker who knows that the evil trade in these weapons could be stopped if banks refused all lines of finance. The link between certain banks and arms companies exporting weapons such as land-mines is one of the most under-exposed aspects of the arms trade. It is easy for financial institutions to hide behind neutral lending decisions when in fact their decisions are measured out in lives. Earlier this year Lord Justice Scott attempted to unravel the intricacies of the arms-to-Iraq scandal. His report noted well-founded suspicions that at least one arms company — which banked with a high street bank — had exported arms to Iran and Iraq through another country. It is important that banks learn the lessons of Scott. I am convinced that in future all financial institutions will be called upon to justify their investment policies on ethical as well as financial grounds. I believe that British banks can show moral leadership. I hope that on the single issue of anti-personnel land-mines all the banks will put their commercial rivalry to one side in order to ensure the elimination of these devices, which con-

tribute to kill or maim 24,000 people every year. But why should banks adopt this stance? According to the Red Cross, landmines have killed more people worldwide than nuclear weapons or poison gas. But because the civilian victims injured by landmines live in Third World villages there is little public awareness in Britain of their horrific impact. An estimated 5 million to 3 million anti-personnel land-mines were laid in 1994. In the same period only 100,000 mines were cleared at a cost of \$40 million. Yet it is now largely accepted in military circles that anti-personnel mines have little or no use in modern warfare. The United Nations is working towards a worldwide ban on all anti-personnel mines and we hope all banks and companies involved in the manufacture of land-mines will sign. Together we can end this despicable trade which has left a legacy of 110 million active mines in 64 countries, with another 110 million stockpiled waiting to be laid. Terry Thomas is managing director of the Co-operative Bank

Water companies' price prospects doubly dammed

Nicholas Bamister

WATER companies suffered a double blow yesterday with news that industry regulator Ofwat wants to put an end to ever-increasing bills and that the Government may extend its powers. A leaked Department of the Environment report on water resources said the Government was considering requests by Ofwat and the Environment Agency for "refinements or extension" of their powers. The Government, which wants the water companies and their customers to use water more efficiently, is to publish a consultation paper about the regulators at a later date. Separately, Ian Byatt, the director-general of Ofwat, said he planned to re-examine the industry's price controls in 1999, five years before he has to. Mr Byatt said yesterday that customers had seen prices rising for too long and it was time they should benefit from cost-cutting. He said: "The increased efficiency reported by the companies is a good indication that incentive regulation is working. The companies are using their resources more ef-

fectively. Costs have fallen as a result. These savings will be passed on to customers at the next review." He added that the 1995 and 1996 droughts showed companies needed to give more attention to leakage control and maintaining a balance between supply and demand. An Ofwat spokeswoman said the review would also help Mr Byatt's campaign to discourage water company takeovers, by making the utilities less attractive to potential bidders. Northumbrian Water and Southern Water have already been taken over by larger groups from outside the industry, while Welsh Water and

North West Water have changed radically after acquiring electricity companies. Mr Byatt, who is keen to counter Labour allegations that the regulatory system is not working, announced a 10-year price regime for the industry in 1994. On average this would have held annual price rises at no more than 1 per cent above inflation. In recent months, Mr Byatt's counterparts in the gas and electricity industries have sought to bolster their credentials with a potential Labour government by taking a tough stance in favour of consumers. City analysts said that no one in the water industry expected the current price regime to run its full 10 years. But Mr Byatt's announcement of a new review after five years had come about six months earlier than expected. Kevin Lapwood, water analyst at Merrill Lynch, said the relationship between Mr Byatt and Labour had not been particularly friendly and the regulator was making the point that the regulatory system was working well. Labour environment spokesman Frank Dobson said the companies were "rolling in money" and operating under a very easy regime, had given the customer a bad deal.



Murdoch sees sport as the key to pay-TV gains

Tony May

RUPERT Murdoch said yesterday that he planned to use sport as "a battering ram" to draw a wider market for News Corporation's global pay-television services. At the annual general meeting in Adelaide, he said sport "absolutely overpowers" film and everything else in drawing viewers to pay television. He repeated earlier forecasts of a "very good year" from his UK newspapers which would, along with his US Fox TV operation, drive profits forward by a fifth over the current year. The BSkyB satellite business, 40 per cent owned by

News Corp, is booming and will change within the next 12 months to digital broadcasting from analogue. This will allow it to increase the number of its channels from 36 to more than 150, all with greater quality and definition. He said the new service would be capable of home banking and other interactive services — the first system in the world to do so. The move to digital would have some costs associated with it, but would take the satellite operator to new heights and much greater penetration and acceptance by the public. Referring to the newspaper division, Mr Murdoch said: "Advertising in the United Kingdom is, relatively speaking, booming," and went on:

"I am happy to report that last year's extreme shortage of newsprint, which was accompanied by extreme price increases, have receded, and prices of newsprint are easing and that is showing on the bottom line." The Sunday Times's circulation was at an all-time high despite very little promotion. The Sun tabloid was still selling more than 4 million copies a day, while the News of the World was selling 4.5-5 million copies a week. He said the legal battle over rights to stage the company's Super League rugby league competition was an "unfortunate hold-up" but said it would be "a wonderful asset to have now we are free to get the competition underway".

Peugeot's new 'baby' to be born at Ryton

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

FRENCH car company Peugeot is to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in making a second car, a new "baby" 206, at its Ryton plant near Coventry. The investment, due to be announced formally in the new year, will secure the factory's future and its 2,600 jobs. Hundreds more jobs will be created among component suppliers. The plans emerged on the opening day of the motor show in Birmingham, where Vauxhall confirmed that it would spend \$300 million modernising its Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire, as reported in yesterday's Guardian. Vauxhall executives indicated that the investment, sanctioned by parent company General Motors, boded well for its chances of securing further funds to make a second car at Ellesmere Port's sister plant at Luton. The Vauxhall investment was swiftly welcomed by knightly minister Greg Knight as confirmation that Britain was "the centre of investment in the car industry". Peugeot executives were tight lipped about the Ryton plans, but it emerged

News in brief

Inchcape sells Bain Hogg for £160m

INCHCAPE is selling Bain Hogg Group, its insurance broker unit to Amn, one of the world's largest insurance brokers, for £160 million cash, allowing the company to focus on its international distribution business. The sale to Chicago-based Amn would result in a £195 million exceptional pre-tax loss. Inchcape said. Previously, the company said it would spin off the unit by the year-end rather than sell it to another company. Inchcape said the sale would be a "significant cash injection". "Having secured a price significantly above the value we expect the market to place on the company if demerged, I am convinced that today's disposal to Amn represents the best value for our shareholders," chairman Colin Marshall said. — Bloomberg

Gehe draws in horns

STUTTGART-based Gehe, one of two suitors for Lloyds Chemists, yesterday continued its withdrawal from pharmaceutical manufacturing with the sale of two more businesses. Its Azurpharma business is going to Switzerland's Sandoz group for £265 million, while GNB-pharma in Paris is being sold to BASF of Germany for an undisclosed sum. Gehe estimates the withdrawal from pharmaceuticals manufacturing will raise £760 million. Gehe's bid for Lloyds Chemists, along with a rival offer from Unichem, is currently on hold awaiting a ruling from the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang. — Mark Milner

Seddon Atkinson revs up

An upturn in the British commercial vehicles industry was signalled yesterday as Seddon Atkinson, the Oldham, Lancashire, truck makers, replaced short-time working with overtime. Fifty new jobs will be created in November when the company's 258 current workers will end a three-day week imposed in July. — Martyn Halsall

Tied pubs escape

BRITAIN'S tied pubs will continue to be exempted from European Union competition rules under a decision expected soon from the European Commission. In coming weeks, the commission will extend by up to two years a rule that allows the beer and oil industries to maintain exclusive distribution systems. EU sources said. This so-called block exemption is due to expire at the end of next year, and the commission was to decide next year on whether it should be renewed. — Julie Wolf In Brussels

Advertisement for MJN (Multimedia) computers. The main headline reads "A Solid Specification That Delivers Good Performance". Below this is an image of a computer tower and monitor. The text describes the MJN P166+ Multimedia Model Tower, highlighting features like the Intel Pentium 166MHz processor, 32Mb EDO RAM, and various expansion slots. It also lists prices for different configurations, such as £1673.20 inc. VAT for the P166+ Model and £1790.70 inc. VAT for the P166+ Model with 32Mb EDO RAM and Five Modems. The advertisement includes contact information for MJN Technology Limited, including a phone number (01 282 777 555) and a website (www.mjn.co.uk). A handwritten note at the bottom of the ad says "09/10/96".

Tom sail leaves our crew feeling deflated

Soccer

United hope to be third time luckier

David Lacey in Istanbul on high hopes of avoiding more Turkish trouble

LATE autumn in the Champions League, it seems, is about to find Manchester United awaiting events by the Bosphorus. Tonight's game against Fenerbahce is their third successive visit to Turkey as England's representatives in this tournament, and if they are to make better progress this time they cannot afford to lose.

So far United have suffered nothing but dirty work at the crossroads linking Europe with Asia. Recent visits to Istanbul have found them facing a Turkish dilemma. Delight has been in short supply. Three years ago here they went out of the European Cup in the second round to Galatasaray, who were content to share a scoreless draw on their own ground after holding United to 3-3 at Old Trafford and went through on away goals. Eric Cantona was the red card at the final whistle for abusing the Swiss referee, and two United players were assaulted by riot police.



High and mighty... Peter Schmeichel turns over a shot in Manchester United training at the Fenerbahce Stadium last night

At least the prospects of United achieving something better are quite promising. Fenerbahce, coached by Sebastiao Lazaroni, who was in charge of Brazil for the 1990 World Cup, are not shaping up as well as Galatasaray, the preliminary round they struggled to beat Maccabi Tel Aviv, who forced a 1-1 draw here after losing 1-0 in Israel. Fenerbahce's principal foreign influence is Emil Kostadinov, the Bulgarian striker previously with Bayern Munich, who has just completed a three-match European ban after being sent off against Maccabi.

Kostadinov, scorer of the late Bulgarian goal that denied France and Canada a place in the 1994 World Cup, leads the attack alongside the Bosnian Elvir Bolic. Jay Jay Okocha, a Nigerian midfielder with a penchant for dribbling, was signed from Eintracht Frankfurt during the summer. Fenerbahce's reported weakness on the flanks indicates that they have nobody to plague United the way Kubaly Turkulmaz did for Galatasaray. Yet the presence of Behur Babasoglu in Lazaroni's squad suggests they are not entirely bereft of the means to drive a chariot or two through United's defence.

Much is going to depend on the way Alex Ferguson approaches tonight's game. A month ago he played two wide men, Cruyff and Poborsky, against Juventus in Turin but attempted to narrow the team's movements in the hope of denying their Italian opponents attacking space. The result was chaotic. Neither Cruyff nor Poborsky showed any inclination to track back with the result that Juventus frequently opened up United's defence and should have won by more than Alan Boksic's lone goal. Much depends on Gary Pallister shaking off the recurring back problem which forced him to miss Saturday's game against Liverpool. David May and Ronny Johnsen played well enough in that match but Ferguson would be more comfortable if Pallister were around. He could play Pallister and Johnson, as he did in Turin, or retain May and play Johnsen in front of the back four. Either way Nicky Butt looks like filling an important role as deputy for the injured Roy

Luckless Laudrup saddled as the lone Ranger in the danger zone

Patrick Glenn in Amsterdam finds Glaswegian problems in attack against Ajax tonight

IN A city whose pedestrians must take care to avoid falling into its many canals after dark, Rangers are expected to experience great difficulty in keeping their Champions League heads above water tonight. Walter Smith's squad arrived in this Dutch city yesterday to meet a supposedly diminished Ajax side at the futuristic Amsterdam Arena, but the Rangers manager's problems make those of his rival look about as serious as a shaving cut. Louis Van Gaal is likely to be without the strikers Patrick Kluivert and Jari Litmanen as well as the veteran sweeper Danny Blind, but Smith said that he could not even form a game

plan, except for some provisional sketching, until he had some idea of the personnel at his disposal. The picture would not become clear until today, when he had the chance to check on possible reactions to last night's training session. The midfielder Stuart McCall and goalkeeper Andy Goram were unable to go through a rigorous work-out and Smith will be thankful to have even one of them available. "They are a little further forward than they were yesterday, but not much." "Their chances may have improved slightly but I've told them I won't risk damaging them for the future for the sake of this one game." He is also without a re-

gnised striker, McCoist. Durrin and Andersen are already out and Van Vossen has virtually no chance, so Rangers will have to rely on Brian Laudrup launching solo raids up front. The Dane can be formidable but not without the ball, and gaining possession and supplying him is likely to be very difficult. Rangers may have to press into service, at least on the bench, some of the under-20s who are allowed to be added to the 25 players registered with UEFA in advance of the Champions League ties. These youngsters include Greg Shields, Brian McGinty, Steven Boyack and Paul McKnight. But as Smith pointed out, "it's a hell of a game to

be playing with boys hardly out of their apprenticeships." Smith took mild exception to Van Gaal's comments after watching Rangers lose 2-1 to Hibs last Saturday, but more out of tenderness than acrimony. "It seems that every coach we meet this season has a comment to make about Rangers, but it's not my way to talk of others and what they may or not be. I'll leave that to those who feel the need for it." Van Gaal had commented that Rangers were not particularly good players technically and that Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne tended to play for themselves rather than the team. Laudrup had a reply. "Paul is an individualist, like myself," he said, "and sometimes people will say we're only playing for ourselves. But you have to do what you're best at. Paul is good at creating opportunities by taking on opponents, so you should leave him the way he is." Neither Gascoigne nor Laudrup has been noticeably successful with Rangers in Europe, but Smith is placing some reliance on them tonight. "Of course you can't succeed without a team strategy," he said, "but within that you have to look to the special talents like Gascoigne and Laudrup to do the special thing. Oh yes, they'll be important here all right."

First Division: Reading 2, Manchester City 0

Nogan double nails City

Martin Thorpe
STEVE COPPELL does not do things by halves: he does them by quarter. The Manchester City manager has given himself four matches to assess his new players before deciding if changes are needed. And this, the second of those, showed why: after the impressive draw at QPR, a defeat at struggling Reading. Saturday's performance at Loftus Road had been impressive enough for Coppel to say: "Looking at the players, there is a lot that is right." But perhaps City thought every team in blue-and-white hoops could be as easily dominated, because there was an opening complacency about them for which they paid a high price when going behind in the 36th minute. Perhaps they also underestimated Reading. There has been a lot wrong with the Royals. Six were missing in-

jured last night and their record signing, Darren Caskey, was absent because of a death in the family. But then the team's form generally has left them struggling at the wrong end of the table, sparking growing unrest among the fans and threatening the future of the joint managers, Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn. But the first 45 minutes turned out to be more encouraging. Morley's turn and shot had already forced Dibble into an instinctive parry, when in the 36th minute Dickov lost the ball in the centre circle. Lambert carried it forward in a dazzling run, then slipped the ball into the left-hand side of the area, where Nogan shot precisely just inside the City goalkeeper's far post. As expected of a side that had failed to produce a decent chance in the first half, City emerged with more vigour after the break and Dickov soon curled in a dangerous shot from the left edge of the area. Wright did well to push away at full stretch. But then the tempo returned, along with the uncertainty at the back and hesitation up front. When Kinkladze was booked for a foul in the 65th minute, it was his first major contribution to the match. All Reading had to do to take a grip on the game was break more sweat and when their second goal came in the 64th minute it was no surprise. Gilles made a tantalising run into the area and squared the ball to Nogan, who slotted home his second goal. City's problems were compounded seven minutes from time when Lomas was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Parkinson. Reading's Wright, Bernal, Hunter, McPherson, Hopkins, Gooding, Giles, Lambert, Morley, Nogan, Manchester City: Dibble, Summerbell, Wastall, Clough, Symons, 1. Brighton, Clough, Kinkladze, Lomas, Fowler, Dickov. Referee: H. Preece (Porthsmouth).

Bolton Wanderers 1, Tranmere Rovers 0

A pinch of promotion salt from Sellars

Ian Ross
BOLTON may not be good enough for the Premiership but they could also be too good for the First Division. Their last season at Burnden Park is turning into quite a treat. They stand five points clear at the top this morning after extending their most impressive opening run since 1934 at the expense of a side of similarly lofty ambition. Tranmere's traditional over-elaboration was less evident than usual, yet in many respects they continue to be their own worst enemy. Although few teams outside of the Premiership pass the ball better, few require as many passes to transform potential into threat, and therein lies the rub for a club grimly determined to succeed on its own terms. They hustle

the crossbar with a deflected drive. You could not slide a cigarette paper between the two until the 50th minute when Bolton's policy of drilling low crosses square at high speed was finally rewarded. Blake managed to get in the path of McGlinlay's bullet pass from the right, but only to nudge the ball into the path of Scott Sellars, who fired in smartly from 12 yards. That goal seemed to convince Bolton that they were perhaps affording Tranmere a little too much respect, and they wisely withdrew any semblance of subtlety from their football thereafter. Bolton Wanderers: Branagan, Hodgson, Taylor, Falcough, Phillips, Sellars, Johnson, Thompson, Blake, McGlinlay. Tranmere Rovers: Stevens, Thom Jones, 56 min, Toole, Brian Cook (Milton), 60, Bonner, Aldridge. Referee: H. Furniss (Doncaster).

Results

Table with multiple columns listing sports results including Soccer (UEFA Cup, Nationwide League, Scottish League), Table Tennis, Fixtures, Baseball, American Football, Ice Hockey, Motor Sport, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Golf, and Tennis.

Cricket

Women given the vote again by MCC

David Hopps

MCC members will be given another opportunity next year to abandon centuries of sexism by admitting women into the game's most august club. Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie has launched his MCC presidency by indicating that another vote is overdue and that he will support the abandonment of an antiquated men-only policy. His earliest official opportunity to press his case comes today when he chairs his first full MCC committee meeting at Lord's. Ingleby-Mackenzie, who links with Lord's began as a 16-year-old playing for Eton against Harrow in 1948, has an opportunity to press his case for a policy of inclusivity. He has begun by urging MCC's traditionalists to abandon their "fear" of the opposite sex. "Much publicity has been given to the introduction of lady members," he writes in the MCC's autumn newsletter. "It is five years since this delicate question has been placed before the membership. It is time that this matter was reintroduced, and we must not be frightened by the opposite sex who are keen cricketers and lovers of the game. The MCC's approach is in the best interests of the club." Ingleby-Mackenzie's hint that women members may serve the MCC's best interests may be regarded as a subtle allusion to the club's failure three months ago to win National Lottery support for a £10 million redevelopment scheme. The scheme founded for three reasons: it was not regarded as offering value for money, it required funding for spectator seating, which is against Lottery policy, and there was the failure to offer equal opportunities to women. The first two reservations might have been overturned in time if it were not for the third, which was roundly condemned. The proposal that the MCC change its rules to admit women members was considered by the annual meeting in May 1991 but was defeated by 4,727 votes to 2,571. A further proposal that women should be eligible to become honorary life members was narrowly approved, by 3,694 to 3,365, but it failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority. Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, the former England women's captain, responded: "As one does not expect one slams in your face." Last summer the MCC waived its rules by allowing women into the Long Room for a day for a women's international between England and New Zealand, and the cause was allowed a useful publicity coup in the process. At next year's annual meeting in May, we will discover whether a permanent agreement is forthcoming.

Lloyd gives assessors a dismissal

JOHN LLOYD, a Premier League referee and Fifa official before retiring at the end of last season, yesterday put the blame for poor refereeing on assessors. Lloyd of Wrexham, says the watching assessors inhibit referees, who have given a rash of red and yellow cards in the Premiership this season and have sometimes been overzealous and inconsistent. "Assessors are often people with no experience of refereeing at the highest level," he said. "I refereed Chelsea and Tottenham in the 1993-94 season and was assessed by a 78-year-old who had been a linesman for two seasons 30 years ago." Fulham has turned down an approach from Brighton to groundshare at Craven Cottage next season. Brighton, who have no new home to go to next May, still hope to share with their South Coast rivals Portsmouth. But Portsmouth say they have not made a final decision, and no official ground-share application has been lodged with the Football League. Brighton's chief executive David Bellotti sounded out Fulham after supporters of a meeting in July, mentioned five London clubs as an alternative to Fratton Park. But Fulham's chairman Jimmy Hill confirmed he had turned the approach down because an agreement with the local council prevented it. He said: "We are sympathetic but there's no question of anyone else but Fulham playing at Craven Cottage."



San Remo style... Colin McRae leads into today's final leg

Torrey 11-1, Winchester 10-1, 1,843. SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Dundee 1-1, 1,843. Second Division: Aberdeen 1-1, 1,843. Third Division: Dundee 1-1, 1,843. Table Tennis: EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (Round-robin): Hungary 1-0, 1,843. Fixtures: EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Ajax v Rangers; Group B: Borussia Dortmund v Chelsea; Group C: Lazio v Tottenham; Group D: Real Madrid v Bayern Munich. BASEBALL: NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: St. Louis 1-0, 1,843. AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL: Green Bay 21, San Francisco 20 (ot). Ice Hockey: NHL: Vancouver 4, Boston 5 (ot); NY Rangers 5, Calgary 4; Phoenix 3, Edmonton 2. Motor Sport: SAN REMO RALLY: Colin McRae (GB) Subaru Impreza 2nd (2:42.2); C. Sainz (ES) Ford Escort Cosworth 3rd (2:48.2); P. Lodi (IT) Subaru Impreza 3rd (2:48.2). RUGBY UNION: WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second Division: Aberystwyth 0, Bladnoch 34; Brynmawr 1, Llanidloes 24; Gorse Kev 19, Aberystwyth 24; Ystradgynlais 0, S. Wales 27; Aberystwyth 0, S. Wales 27. RUGBY LEAGUE: ACADEMY TOURS: Central District Colts 35, G. Britain Academy 52. GOLF: BRITISH OPEN: P. Marston (GB) 68 C. Phillips (GB) 69. TENNIS: ATP CZECH OPEN INDOOR: R. Federer (S) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; M. Sampras (US) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; P. Rostagno (A) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.



When push comes to shove... Great Britain's full-back Steve Prescott gives the brush-off to Shane Endacott, the fly-half son of the Kiwis' Test coach

Tour match: New Zealand President's XIII 30, Great Britain XIII 22

Hammond a source of optimism for the humbled Lions

Andy Wilson in Wellington

IF THEIR experience of 10 days in New Zealand has taught Great Britain's tourists anything, it is that rugby league here is considerably healthier on than off the field.

Both matches, however, have been watched by pitifully small crowds, although Graham Carden, the code's driving force here since Super League arrived in the spring of 1985, still expects up to 20,000 for Friday night's Test in Auckland.

Barrie-Jon Mather, their most threatening attackers, engineered gilt-edged chances for Chris Joynt and Steve Prescott but on each occasion the St Helens players were unable to hold on to the ball.

down in communications between Tony Smith and Tuisen Tollett. The British half-backs redeemed themselves when Tollett sent Smith between the posts in the 48th minute, but the Kiwis extended their lead with a penalty from the full-back David Murray and a try by the former Hull stand-off Shane Endacott, the son of New Zealand's Test coach, Frank.

and Jason Critchley, to move from loose forward to left-centre in the second half. Eight minutes from time he drifted to the right to score a superb individual try which, with Prescott's conversion, brought the tourists' back to within two points. But Endacott's second try confirmed the ending of the Lions' unbeaten tour record.

Great Britain's coach Phil Larder will not finalise his Test team until after a training session under floodlights at the Ericsson Stadium in Auckland today. "There is no doom and gloom," he said. "This defeat won't affect our preparation or confidence for the big one."

Snooker

Cue a bitter power struggle

Clive Everton on the eve of the Grand Prix in Bournemouth finds increasing opposition to the sport's rulers and structure in the run-up to a potentially stormy WPBSA election in December

AS FOR the Conservative Party Conference last week, so for the Snooker Grand Prix which today follows it into the Bournemouth International Centre: the crowd will congregate to applaud the favourites, but backstage there is discord, dissent and disharmony under the shadow of an impending election.

WPBSA then at the game, which is in excellent shape." Benson and Hedges originated the Masters in 1975 and still promotes it at Wembley. When the company entrusted the draw of its Edinburgh satellite event to the association, it was bemused to learn that the draw was distributed initially with the wrong number of byes. And when a Russian, Ashot Petikyan, flew in from Moscow for his match, he discovered he was a day late; he had not received the revised draw.

ing farcical proportions," says snooker's leading manager Ian Doyle, who supports Williams. "Last year the Grand Prix was supposed to be in Bournemouth but someone at WPBSA forgot to book it and we ended up in Sunderland."

tion of the board, a letter in Spencer's name said that to be an association board member "requires no business experience, qualifications, previous directorships or a pile of the like. What is required, however, is a love of snooker... a willingness to work very hard for the game (and) to be a target of those who profess to support snooker but in actual fact are only concerned in personal gain."

ning an industry in the main." The chairman is elected by the board. Association rules do not permit board members to be paid but for the past nine years they have received a notorious £1-a-mile travelling expense (up to 250 miles per journey) plus hotel, meal and phone expenses. Last year they should be formally paid — at rates fixed by themselves — but failed to get it passed at an extraordinary meeting.

Under its Byzantine rules, the association offers its electorate the chance to vote yes or no to each candidate for the board. Only if a candidate's yes votes exceed his no votes can he go into the final count of yes votes.

Spencer... under fire

Williams... 'shambles'

Carling stays at No. 10 in Ulster

Team talk

Squash

Sport in brief

Squash

Fights for first strings

HERE were predictable 3-0 pool-match victories for Australia and England in the women's world team championship, but only after both the expected finalists had seen their first strings seriously embarrassed by lower-ranked opponents.

Motor Racing

Golf

Swimming

Soccer

Rugby League

Rugby Union

Quinnell cashes in

Robert Armstrong

SCOTT QUINNELL has agreed a contract to play for Wales that could earn him up to £78,000 from his international return this season.

Quinnell, who won nine caps in 1993-94, will receive £4,000 match fees plus enhanced win bonuses of up to £4,000 as well as his basic salary of £20,000 a season. The deal, which makes the Wales No. 8 available for a maximum of seven internationals this season, compares more than favourably with the standard contract given to members of the Wales squad, which is worth £30,000 a year plus £2,000 match fees and £2,000 win bonuses.

The former Llanelli player, who moved to rugby league two years ago, will be available for the pre-Christmas internationals in Cardiff against Australia on December 1 and South Africa two weeks later, the visit of the United States on January 4 and all four matches in the 1997 Five Nations Championship. He may be rested for the US game, which is likely to be used to try out less experienced players.

Quinnell, whose younger brother Craig has also been capped by Wales, could form a formidable international back row alongside Bath's Richard Webster, who has returned to union from Saiford, and Steve Williams of Neath, who can play at flanker or No. 8. If Wales chose to restore Cardiff's David Young to the front

row and if Gareth Llewellyn of Harlequins stayed at lock, the principally could put out arguably its strongest pack since the Seventies.

However, it remains to be seen whether Quinnell's financial terms, which were negotiated by his agent Mike Burton, will accelerate or delay an agreement between the Welsh Rugby Union and Webster and Young, and indeed other players on the threshold of the Wales squad.

Still, Wales's recent international form, which has yielded one championship win in the past two years, suggests they have some way to go before Quinnell can collect regular win bonuses.

Wales stay at home

David Plummer

ENGLAND will have to face Wales in Cardiff in this season's Five Nations Championship. The game on March 15 was to have been moved to Wembley but the Welsh Rugby Union said that, through "an innovative redevelopment design", the National Stadium's capacity for the international will be reduced to 42,000 rather than the 32,000 originally feared.



Lewis... too busy

Under its Byzantine rules, the association offers its electorate the chance to vote yes or no to each candidate for the board. Only if a candidate's yes votes exceed his no votes can he go into the final count of yes votes.

ahead with the redesign," said the WRU's treasurer Glynor Griffiths. "It is not a question of anyone being to blame; we simply did not have the consent from Cardiff we needed and we had to ensure the work was completed on time."

The capacity of the stadium when the work is finished will now be 70,000, 5,000 less than the WRU intended, but its director of rugby Terry Cobner said he was overjoyed that Wales would be facing England in Cardiff after all.

Carling stays at No. 10 in Ulster

WILL CARLING resumes his experimental role of fly-half as Harlequins open their Heineken European Cup season against Ulster in Belfast tonight.

Leicester at Lansdowne Road, has joined the exodus of Irish talent. The centre is to leave Dublin's Old Belvedere to join Moseley, who have already signed the former Old Wesley prop Henry Hurley.

Team talk

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Birm City	04	Leicester City	05	Southampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	06	Man City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man United	01	Tottenham Hot	07
Burnley	01	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	26
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UEFA CUP SECOND ROUND

First leg: Ferencvaros 3, Newcastle 2

Shearer banishes Danube blues

Michael Walker in Budapest

BELIEVE it or not but Kevin Keegan advocated a "sensible European approach" to this game. What he had not considered before making that remark is the madness that runs through the Newcastle defence like writing in a stick of rock.

Having miraculously come back from a two-goal deficit before the interval Newcastle, all too predictably, managed to give away another goal. The Geordies do at least have the comfort of knowing that when Ferencvaros arrive at St James' Park in a fortnight Europe's best defenders will not be among the party.

But for their vulnerability at the back the Hungarians would have handed English football its most humiliating result since Barcelona thrashed Manchester United two seasons ago. Newcastle came into the match in impressive form with six Premiership wins in a row under their belt. That has taken Keegan's team to a top place in the league but sandwiched in the midst of that sequence of victories was their defeat in Halmstad in the previous round of this competition.

After only 90 seconds it was that Scandinavian hiccup that came to mind when first Lee and then Watson surrendered possession needlessly. Lee's error was particularly culpable as he gave the ball to Ferencvaros' talented playmaker Lisztes.

He soon had Horvath scam-

pering down the right and forced Srnicek into a smothering dive. That was much sharper than the Czech's next involvement in play.

Collecting the ball in his half of the centre circle the bulky, bald-headed figure of Miruta sent a raking pass over the top of the back-pedalling Newcastle defence. It was again aimed for the speedy Horvath but Beresford seemed in control of the situation. However, whether he got a shout from his keeper or just assumed Srnicek would be there, Beresford left the ball alone. Srnicek was caught outside his area and in ripped Horvath.

He went by Srnicek and stroked the ball into the empty net. It was a calamitous misunderstanding and only seven minutes had gone. And yet it was to get much worse for Newcastle before it got any better. Nine minutes later another mistake, this time by Watson, allowed Nagy to get a foot in near the byline on the left wing. From the resulting cross Horvath threw himself in ahead of Beresford but his cue header hit the far post. The move was not over for the Hungarians though, as Lisztes followed up and put the rebound away stylishly.

Newcastle were shell-shocked. All they had to offer in between was a 20-yard Gillespie shot. It was down the Irishman's flank that Newcastle were to find solace, although it was not Gillespie's doing.

Shearer, showing a passionate pride in his jersey, was the man who assumed responsibility. Twenty-four minutes



Getting a head... Ferencvaros's defender Kuznetsov denies Beresford in Budapest last night. PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE EGGERTON

had gone when he rushed past Kuznetsov and clipped in a fast cross that was met with corresponding velocity by Ferdinand's forehead. That was one back and Ferdinand let Peacock know in no uncertain manner that he did not want to be chasing another

two-goal lead. Peacock obliged and in 10 more minutes Newcastle were level. Once again it was Shearer at the centre of the action when he delivered the most emphatic of finishes to Barty's right-wing cross. The ball hit the roof of the net in the blink

of an eye and £15 million began to look reasonable value. It was Shearer's fifth consecutive game for club and country in which he has scored.

In a breathless first half the Geordies then almost went ahead. This time, however, Seiler managed to get enough of a touch on to Lee's side-foot shot to divert the ball on to a post and then agonisingly along the goaline but not over it.

It was clear that defending is not top of either club's agenda, a point reinforced 11 minutes after half-time when Beardsley gifted the ball to

Nicsenko in the Newcastle area. The blond forward quickly found Lisztes and his shot immediately swept past Srnicek. Again.

With Ginola coming on for the ineffective Gillespie Newcastle were hardly shoring it up but despite further clumsiness from Beardsley and Beresford managed to keep the scoreline retrievable for the return leg.

Referee: Szeiler; Hukla, Kuznetsov, Telek, Nagy (Zavadszky, 60min); Nyilas, Lisztes (Holtó, 78), Miruta, Szucz, Horvath, Micsenko. Newcastle: United; Srnicek, Watson, Peacock, Albert, Beresford, Barty, Lee, Beardsley, Gillespie (Ginola, 68), Shearer, Ferdinand. Referee: I. Sundell (Sweden).

Motty's long journey began with 39 steps



Jim White

ALEX FERGUSON has often claimed he detects a Liverpool bias in Match of the Day. But on one occasion at least, a certain member of the BBC's team was more than happy to see Manchester United beat their rivals along the East Lancs Road.

In 1977 a young John Motson commented on his first Cup Final, Liverpool v United. Characteristically thorough in his preparation, Motson had read in his research how many steps there were up to the royal box. And, noting that one of the team captains was the namesake of the writer of a well-known thriller, a phrase came into his head: "How appropriate that a man named Buchan should climb the 39 steps to receive the Cup."

Remembering his debut some years after the event, Motty told me in an interview that he had "not been at all satisfied by my performance. And I think a number of people who were watching were thinking much the same. They were rather impressed when that ad lib came out at the end. But of course it wasn't an ad lib; I'd written it down." Buchan saved his bacon, Motson reckoned.

Last Saturday Motty celebrated his silver jubilee on Match of the Day, 25 years during which he has become a national institution (is it really only that long?). His sheepskin coat, his little chuckle, his unerring ability to state the blindingly obvious: where would the armchair fan be without him? Motson has become a byword for enthusiasm for statistics. Bill Frindall, Statzo: they all bow before this prince among anoraks. No one can catch him out. When he appeared on *They Think It's All Over*, Rory McGrath recalls trying to have an off-camera dig at his expense. As some footage ran of a Premiership game, McGrath leant over to Motson and said: "Note, that's the only left-handed linesman in the league." To which Motson responded: "I think you'll

find Rory, that there are currently four left-handed linesmen on the league list."

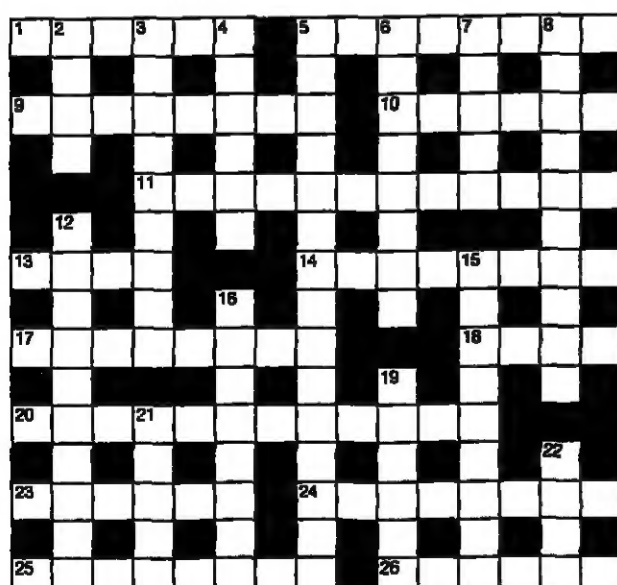
But there is more to Motty than the crude parroting of facts. That *First Cup Final* typified his approach. Where David Coleman became renowned for tripping over his own tongue in moments of high excitement, Motson has forged a career by slipping well honed little epithets into his commentary: "It's delicious, it's delightful, it's a landmark" or "Surprising, startling and you can also call it sensational" or "The Crazy Gang have beaten the Culture Club".

Twice I have had the privilege of seeing his studied preparation at close quarters. The first occasion was just before the 1992 Cup final. Superficially they were playing their final league game away at Brighton and Motty checked himself into the team hotel. When the players came to check out, he stood by the reception and, without saying a word, stared at each one in turn, his nose about half an inch from theirs. "The just familiarising myself with their facial characteristics," was his explanation. One of the players was less certain. Climbing aboard the coach he was heard to tell a team-mate: "Bloody hell, I've just been eyeballed by Motty."

AND then, last month, I found myself sitting next to him in the stands at the Oxford United v Sheffield Wednesday Coca-Cola Cup tie. He was due to commentate on Wednesday that Saturday and wanted to have his standard no-halves-messures look at them. As he sat there, shoulders slumped into his seat, a radio earpiece keeping him in contact with the other games, I became aware of a murmuring noise accompanying the action. It emanated from Motty. Even off duty, it seems, he cannot watch a match without commenting out loud, not in that "Exact it widdit" or "Ref, are you blind or what?" way of the average fan but in perfectly sculpted Mottycisms.

In short, there is no one to touch Motty. We have much to be grateful to Martin Buchan for, and recently I had the chance to ask him whether he was aware of the significance of the fact that Motty had played in the career of inconvertible Mott. Did he, for instance, have a videotape of the 1977 Cup final? "Aye, somewhere," Buchan dead-panned. "It's of ITV."

Guardian Crossword No 20,785



- Across**
- 1 Touching parts of 12? (6)
 - 5 Booty without monetary mechanism requires lubricant (5-3)
 - 9 Marina wrecked by marine linked parts of 19 (3-2-3)
 - 10 The French team's a joke among the English (6)
 - 11 Siblings for belt—harsh, possibly (4-8)
 - 13 Limits of grin or grain (4)
 - 14 Doctor's first off bike with article—don't use water on it (8-5)
 - 17, 19 Child drinkers in Argentine cell, maybe 12 (6-2-6)

- Down**
- 2 Beast heard from 17 19 in candour (4)
 - 3 Glend in the brain makes hippies crazy about Youth Service leaders (9)
 - 4 Firm sort of door (6)
 - 5 Enter setter, possibly by door, into the black stuff with female 19 unspecified (8,2,5)
 - 6 Complete agreement of 12? (3,2,5)
 - 7 Opening for 17 19 resuscitation (5)
 - 8 Weight of one left in 19 at church (10)
 - 12 Confrontational aspect of champion (4,2,4)
 - 15 Left with mistakes that make hills smaller? (8)
 - 16 19s not altogether close? (3,2,3)

Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 18 Part of 19 running close to another (4)
 - 20 Those who deal with generating companies' shares? (6-7)
 - 23, 22 Give worker parts of 19s for close conflict (4-2-4)
 - 24 Trouble at Polish infirmary (6)
 - 25 Dance time, about one in four (4,4)
 - 26 Modest conclusion to game (2-4)
- Down**
- 19 See 17
 - 21 Finish on top? (3,2)
 - 22 See 23
- Solution tomorrow**
- 27 Stuck?** Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 222. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T.

Aberdeen 0, Brondby 2

Sand leaves Dons high and dry

JOHN JENSEN was uncharacteristically accurate with his pre-match prediction. The former Arsenal midfielder believed his Brondby side would have to withstand a fast and furious first half-hour against Aberdeen and if that initial onslaught could be withstood he forecast the Danish champions would take charge.

The physical nature of the contest saw Brondby's midfielder Allan Ravn replaced by Tomas Thøgersen early on, and Scotland's striker Scott Booth made his first competitive appearance of the season when Aberdeen's midfielder Darren Young was injured. Brondby's pattern of play was undisturbed and, after Stewart McKimmie and John Inglis had produced goal-saving tackles to keep out Ebbe Sand, the persistent midfielder finally profited on the stroke of half-time by deflecting in a Kim Vilfort header at the near post.

Peter Møller should have put the tie beyond doubt early in the second half after Brian

Irvine and John Inglis inexplicably left a loose ball to the Danish striker, who directed his shot against a defender. Brute force seemed to be the Scottish side's only answer. A blistering shot from Dean Windass swerved enough for Krogh to push the ball on to the post, and Irvine saw a header hit the top of the bar.

A ROCKERY

The MALT

MACALLAN

THE MALT